MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

60¢ CC 30 02579

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

52 FULL PGS. NO ADS

ADAPTED FROM THE CLASSIC FABLES ENJOYED BY MILLIONS

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

ALL NEW MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES!
THE STORY OF ALADDIN'S LAMP!
SINBAD THE SAILOR!
TALES OF MAGIC AND MENACE IN THE MARVEL MANNER!

30
0 71486 02579 0

STAN LEE presents

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

ADAPTED FROM
THE CLASSIC FABLES ENJOYED BY MILLIONS

ARCHIE GOODWIN
Editor-in-Chief

ROGER SLIFER
Editor

RALPH MACCHIO
Associate Editor

DOUG MOENCH
Script

YONG MONANO
Artist

GEORGE ROUSSOS
Colorist

LEN GROW
MARY DeZUNIGA
NORA MACLIN
Production & Staff

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS is a sublime collection of 264 fabulous tales in Arabic, assembled fragment by fragment during the Middle Ages. In the 10th century, some of the stories were transmitted orally among the Mohammedan peoples of the Near East. As time passed, other sources were used to increase the amount of stories within a framework supplied by a device known as a "frame-tale" which originated in Persia.

In the frame-tale, a jealous sultan Shahriar, marries a new wife every night and has her promptly put to death the following morning. But one bride Shahazarad, made a concerted and exceptional effort to postpone her fate, which is revealed in the conclusion to this current volume.

The first translation of the complete ARABIAN NIGHTS was by Antoine Galland, and was released in Europe. Since then, countless translations in numerous languages have appeared. Even composer Rimsky-Korsakoff was inspired enough from his readings to create a symphony entitled *Scheherazade*.

The glittering escapades of Aladdin, Sinbad, and Ali Baba overflow with the heady fragrance of the mysterious East. Although no ostensible moral structure is apparent in these fables, an underlying sense of universal ethics and principles pervades the adventures and effuses from every page. In addition to tales of far-flung fantasy, the narratives also touch entertainingly upon politics, romance, and satire; all with an easy manner and singular vitality that never lapses into the didactic. Rarely has any work of classical literature proven so endlessly rereadable to a vast audience captivated by its many charms.

MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS™ SERIES FEATURING the ARABIAN NIGHTS is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published bi-monthly.

Copyright 1977 MARVEL COMICS GROUP. All rights reserved 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

Vol. 1. No. 30 1977. Price 60¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada.

No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the United States of America. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition.

The ARABIAN nights
TALES OF ROCS, SANDALWOOD, IVORY, TURBANS, AMBERGRIS, CREAM TARTS, LETTERED APES, DRAGONS AND GHOULS AND GENIES... THESE ARE NIGHTS OF ENCHANTMENT, AND FANTASY.
WOVEN IN A TAPESTRY OF WONDER DURING THE FABLED ONE THOUSAND AND ONE ORIENTAL NIGHTS OF THE BEAUTIFUL SCHEHEREZADE, THESE STORIES ARE BUT A FEW OF THE MORE MAGICAL ARABIAN NIGHTS...

IN TIMES LONG GONE THERE WAS A KING IN THE LANDS OF INDIA AND CHINA CALLED SHAHRYAR...
...AND IT WAS HIS CUSTOM TO MARRY A NEW BRIDE EVERY NIGHT.
IT WAS ALSO THE KING'S CUSTOM TO INSIST THAT EACH OF HIS WIVES SHOULD TELL HIM A STORY ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT...
...AFTER WHICH, IN THE MORNING, HE WOULD ORDER THE HAPLESS STORY-TELLER TO BE SLAIN.
NOW THIS WENT ON FOR MANY NIGHTS...
...AND WHEN SHAHRYAR HAD HEARD A GREAT NUMBER OF STORIES, HE WAS FORCED TO SUMMON HIS CHIEF VIZIER...
I CAN FIND NO MORE BEAUTIFUL MAIDENS TO TAKE AS BRIDES, VIZIER--THEY SEEM TO HAVE VANISHED FROM THE LAND. SO I APPOINT YOU TO BRING ME A NEW BRIDE.
Y-YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
THE VIZIER RETURNED TO HIS HOME, FILLED WITH SORROW AND FEARING FOR HIS LIFE, FOR, IN TRUTH, THERE WERE NOW NO MORE FAIR MAIDENS LEFT IN THE LAND--SAVE THE VIZIER'S DAUGHTER, SCHEHEREZADE
FRET NOT, MY FATHER. GIVE ME IN MARRIAGE TO KING SHAHRAR--EITHER I SHALL DIE OR I SHALL BE THE CAUSE OF DELIVERANCE FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF THE LAND.
NOW SCHEHEREZADE WAS WISE, WITTY AND WELL READ. THUS, WHEN SHE BECAME SHAHRYAR'S NEW BRIDE, SHE ADDRESSED HIM IN A VOICE THAT WAS CALM AND UNAFRAID...
O KING, I HAVE A STORY DELIGHTSOME AND DELECTABLE, WHEREWITH TO WHILE AWAY THE HOURS...
TELL ON, MY BRIDE.
AND SO, ACCORDING TO HER PLAN, THE LOVELY SCHEHEREZADE BEGAN THE FIRST TALE, A RECITATION ON WHICH THE FATE OF HER LIFE RESTED...

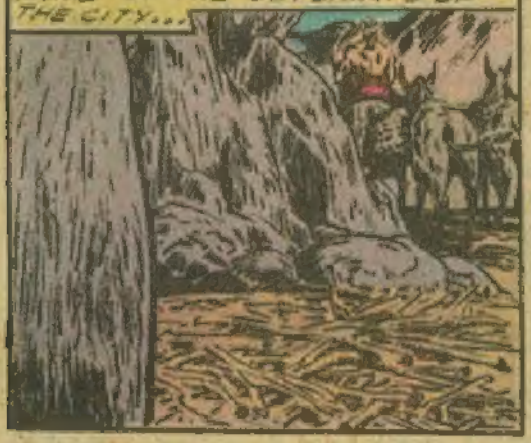
IN TIMES AND TIDES LONG GONE BEFORE, O KING, THERE DWELT IN A CERTAIN TOWN OF PERSIA TWO BROTHERS, KASSIM AND ALI BABA...
ALI BABA
and the FORTY THIEVES
NOW KASSIM WED THE DAUGHTER OF A RICH MERCHANT, THUS INHERITING A LARGE SHOP FILLED WITH RARE GOODS AND COSTLY WARES...
HE HAS A WARE-HOUSE OVERFLOWING WITH PRECIOUS STUFFS.
AND LIKEWISE, IT IS SAID, MUCH GOLD BURIED IN THE GROUND.
BUT ALI BABI MARRIED A WIFE WHO WAS AS POOR AS HIM-SELF, AND SO LIVED IN A VERY HUMBLE HOUSE. HE EARNED A SCANTY LIVING BY SELLING FIREWOOD WHICH HE CARRIED TO THE MARKETPLACE ON HIS THREE DONKEYS...

NOW, ONE DAY WHEN ALI BABA WAS AT HIS WORK DEEP IN THE FOREST, HE SPIED A GREAT COMPANY OF HORSEMEN RIDING TOWARD HIM...
IF THEY ARE A BAND OF ROBBERS, THEY WILL CERTAINLY SLAY ME. PERHAPS I HAD BETTER HIDE IN THIS TREE...
AND SO ALI BABA TOOK REFUGE ON A HIGH BRANCH WHERE NONE COULD GLIMPSE HIM, BUT FROM WHICH HE COULD SEE EVERYTHING.
THE ROBBERS NUMBERED FORTY, ALL YOUNG, ACTIVE, AND FEARSOME. THEY HALTED TO DISMOUNT BEFORE A HUGE ROCK...
... AND THE LEADER STEPPED UP TO A CERTAIN SPOT, AND SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THE SOLID WALL OF ROCK.
OPEN, SESAME!
AND FORTHWITH, TO ALI BABA'S GREAT ASTONISHMENT, A WIDE DOORWAY--
-- MAGICALLY APPEARED IN THE FACE OF THE ROCK.
THE ROBBERS, OF COURSE, DID NOT SHARE ALI BABA'S SURPRISE. CLEARLY, THEY EXPECTED THE DOORWAY TO APPEAR -- AND WHEN IT DID THEY ENTERED, EACH MAN LADEN WITH STOLEN GOODS.
THEN, AFTER ALL FORTY THIEVES HAD ENTERED INTO THE ROCK, THE PORTAL SHUT ITSELF.
SINCE I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN THEY MIGHT ISSUE FORTH AND SEIZE ME, I WILL REMAIN IN HIDING UNTIL THEY RETURN -- AND THENCE DEPART.

ALI BABA DID NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT...
THE THIEVES EMERGED FROM THE ROCK, EACH NOW RELIEVED OF HIS FORMER BURDEN, AND THE LEADER TURNED TO SPEAK TO THE GAPING PORTAL...
SHUT, SESAME!
AND, AS BEFORE, THE DOORWAY BEGAN TO CLOSE.
COME, MEN -- THERE ARE OTHER CARAVANS TO LOOT BEFORE THIS DAY IS DONE!
WHEN THE ROBBERS HAD DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT, ALI BABA WAS AT FIRST NOT CERTAIN AS TO WHAT HE SHOULD DO...
BUT THE SPECTER OF POVERTY HAD ALREADY HAUNTED HIM FOR TOO LONG A TIME, AND TOO, THE SPELL OF CURIOSITY IS A POWERFUL FORCE...
I WONDER... IF THE VIRTUE OF THOSE MAGICAL WORDS MIGHT PERFORM MY BIDDING...
OPEN...: SESAME.
INSTANTLY, THE PORTAL FLEW OPEN!

AND WHEN ALI BABA ENTERED, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A LARGE VAULTED CAVERN OF GLOOM...
...WHICH WAS, IN TRUTH, A FABULOUS TREASURE TROVE. THE SIGHT OF IT TOOK ALI BABA'S BREATH AWAY. HEAPED FROM FLOOR TO CEILING WERE COINS AND GEMS, SILKS AND BROCADES, EMBROIDERED CLOTHING AND VARICOLORED CARPETINGS...
THIEVES MUST HAVE STORED THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS IN THIS PLACE FOR GENERATIONS -- FOR MANY GENERATIONS INDEED!
THE CAVERN'S SPELL WAS SO WROUGHT THAT WHENEVER ANY MAN ENTERED, THE PORTAL SHUT ITSELF BEHIND HIM. BUT ALI BABA WAS NOT DISMAYED, FOR HE KEPT IN HIS MEMORY THE MAGIC WORDS...
I WILL TAKE OUT AS MANY TREASURE SACKS AS MY BEASTS CAN CARRY...
OPEN, SESAME!
AND IT WAS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT ALI BABA'S MEMORY WAS GOOD.

ALI BABA LOADED HIS THREE DONKEYS WITH TREASURE, SPOKE THE MAGIC WORDS WHICH SHUT THE PORTAL, AND MADE WITH ALL SPEED FOR HIS HOME ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...



... WHERE HE TOLD HIS WIFE THE FULL TALE OF HIS ADVENTURE.

OH MY HUSBAND, MY HEART SOARS AT OUR GOOD FORTUNE. BUT WE MUST WEIGH THE GOLD -- AND HAVE SOME INKLING OF ITS AMOUNT.

AS YOU PLEASE, MY WIFE -- BUT TELL NO MAN OR WOMAN OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

AND NOW, LET ME DIG A HOLE IN WHICH WE MAY HIDE THE TREASURE ONCE YOU HAVE WEIGHED IT.

AND SO, SINCE ALI BABA HAD BEEN TOO POOR TO OWN ANYTHING MORE THAN THE BARE NECESSITIES, HIS WIFE WENT OFF TO VISIT RICH KASSIM'S WIFE...

MAY I BORROW YOUR WEIGHTS AND SCALES, PLEASE? THEY WILL BE RETURNED FORTHWITH.

I AM SURPRISED THAT YOU WOULD HAVE ANYTHING WORTH WEIGHING, BUT VERY WELL -- WAIT HERE.

KASSIM'S WIFE WAS A SCHEMING WOMAN WHO WAS EVER UNABLE TO LET MYSTERIES LIE AND SO SHE SECRETLY SMEARED STICKY WAX AND SUET ON THE SCALE'S PAN...

SOON I WILL KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT ALI BABA'S WIFE IS SO EAGER TO WEIGH.

AND WHEN ALI BABA'S WIFE RETURNED THE WEIGHING SCALES ON THE NEXT DAY, SURE ENOUGH...

THERE IS A GOLD COIN STUCK TO THE WAX AND FAT!

STILL FUMING WITH ENVY BY THE TIME HER HUSBAND RETURNED AT EVENTIDE, SHE PRESENTED HER FIND IN SHRILL TONES...

YOU THINK YOU ARE RICH, KASSIM, BUT YOUR BROTHER ALI BABA MUST HAVE FAR MORE WEALTH THAN YOU. HE DOES NOT COUNT HIS COINS AS YOU DO -- NO, HE HAS SUCH HEAPS OF GOLD THAT HE MUST WEIGH IT WITH SCALES!

KASSIM'S SLEEP WAS STOLEN BY ENVY THAT NIGHT -- AND THE NEXT MORNING, HE WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS BROTHER'S HOME...
ALI BABA, YOU PRETEND TO BE A POOR BEGGAR -- AND YET YOU MEASURE YOUR MONEY WITH A GRAIN SCALE! I DEMAND TO KNOW THE SOURCE OF YOUR NEW-FOUND WEALTH!
VERY WELL, MY BROTHER, I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING CONCERNING THE TREASURE TROVE I HAVE FOUND -- THE PLACE WHICH IS A DEN OF THIEVES...

AND SO ALI BABA RELATED EVERYTHING ABOUT THE SECRET CAVE, INCLUDING ITS LOCATION AND THE MAGIC WORDS, EVEN OFFERING TO SHARE THE TREASURE WITH KASSIM...
I CERTAINLY EXPECT SUCH, ALI BABA -- OTHERWISE I SHALL INFORM THE SULTAN AND HIS POLICE OF THIS MATTER. THEN YOU WILL FORFEIT ALL YOUR WEALTH!

BUT KASSIM WAS DETERMINED TO SEIZE THE ENTIRE TREASURE FOR HIMSELF, AND TO STEAL AWAY FROM THE CITY BEFORE HIS DECEPTION COULD BE DISCOVERED...
OPEN, SESAME!

AT THE SOUND OF THE MAGICAL WORDS, THE PORTAL YAWNED WIDE --

-- AND THEN SHUT BEHIND KASSIM, AS WAS ITS CUSTOM. THE GREEDY MERCHANT WAS IN AWE, AND SPENT MUCH OF THE DAY SIMPLY FEASTING HIS EYES ON THE SIGHT OF SO MUCH GOLD...

EVENTUALLY, HOWEVER, KASSIM REMEMBERED HIS PLAN AND GATHERED AS MUCH OF THE GOLD AS HIS TEN MULES COULD POSSIBLY CARRY. THEN, STANDING BEFORE THE CLOSED ENTRANCE, HE BECAME GREATLY PERPLEXED...
NOW LET ME SEE...WHAT WERE THOSE STRANGE WORDS ALI BABA TOLD ME...?

OPEN, BARLEY!
THE PORTAL REMAINED CLOSED.
OPEN, WHEAT!
STILL THE DOORWAY REFUSED TO OPEN.
OPEN, CORN!!
NOTHING... NOTHING BUT THE ECHO OF KASSIM'S FRANTIC SCREAM, REFLECTING FROM A WALL OF MUTE, SOLID ROCK
BEING A RICH MERCHANT, KASSIM WAS ACCUSTOMED TO JUGGLING THE NAMES OF MANY GRAINS THROUGH HIS MIND. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONE GRAIN WHICH HAD SLIPPED COMPLETELY FROM HIS MEMORY...
BY ALLAH, I AM IN DIRE DISTRESS. THE WEALTH WHICH HAD FILLED MY HEART WITH JOY AND GLADNESS IS NOW THE CAUSE OF BITTER GRIEF AND SADNESS.
WHAT GOOD IS TREASURE -- IF I MUST BE ITS PRISONER?
AT NOONTIDE, THE FORTY THIEVES RETURNED... WITH NEW BOOTY FOR THEIR CACHE.
OPEN, SESAME!
WHAT--?! A STRANGER AMONG OUR HOARD?!
OH, NO.

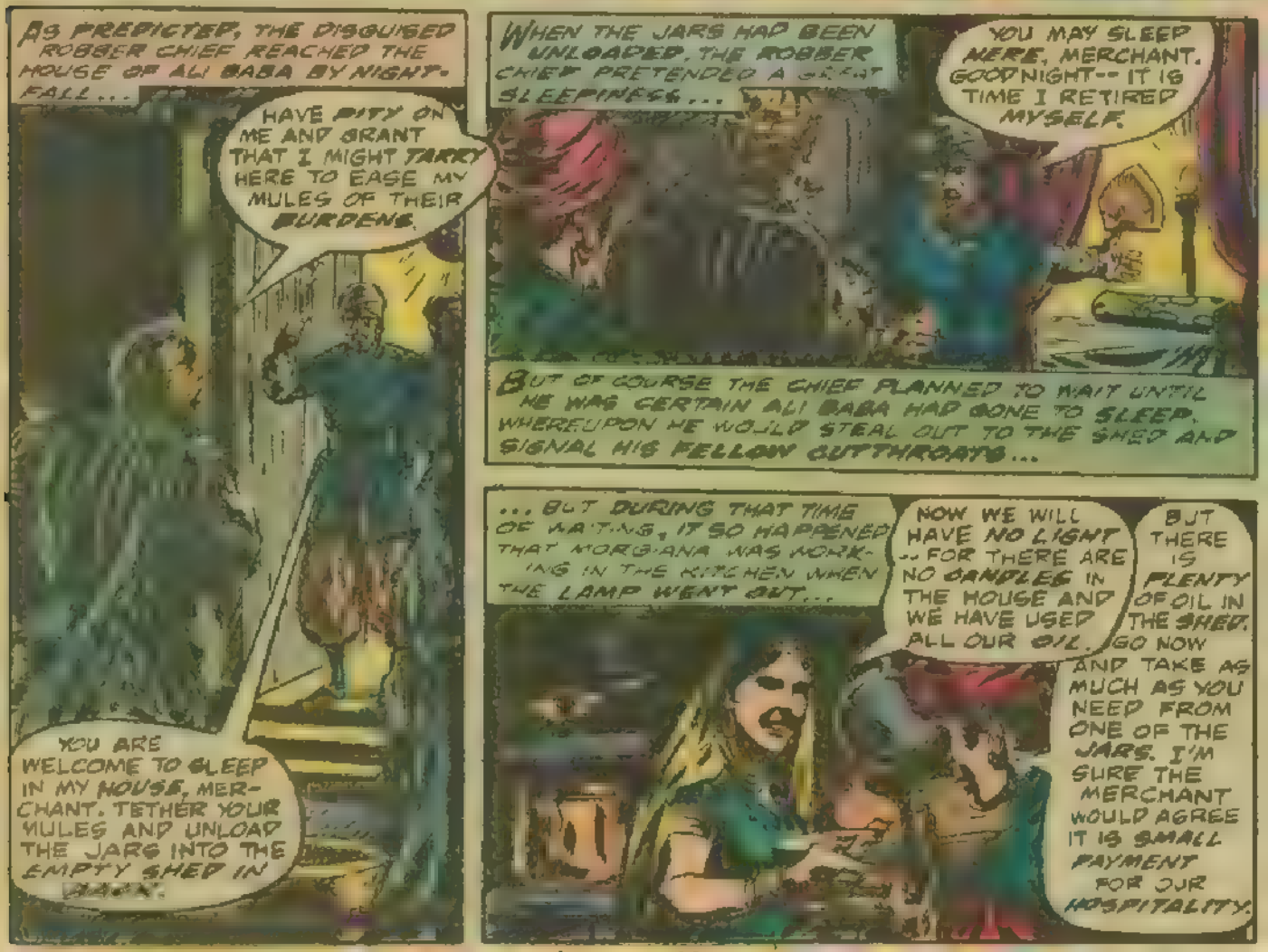
AT ONCE, THE HOWLING THIEVES FELL UPON KASSIM, SAVAGELY SLAYING HIM IN CRUEL VENGEANCE...
WE WILL LEAVE HIS BODY HERE --
"--AS A WARNING OF DOOM FOR ANY-ONE ELSE WHO DARES ENTER THIS CAVE!"
KASSIM--! NO -- NOO!!
THE SIGHT OF KASSIM'S FATE SORELY SHOCKED ALI BABA. TRUE, HE HAD COME TO THE CAVE IN QUEST OF HIS BROTHER, HAVING GROWN UNEASY OVER KASSIM'S DELAY; BUT TO FIND THIS WAS TOO
NOW ALI BABA WAS FILLED WITH A FEAR FOR HIS OWN LIFE, AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE RELATED TO HIM, AND HE KNEW THE ROBBERS MUST NEVER LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN THEY HAD SLAIN.
FIRST HE TOOK GREAT CARE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SEEN AS HE DELIVERED THE BODY TO THE HOUSE OF KASSIM'S WIDOW...
THEN HE TOOK COUNSEL WITH ONE OF KASSIM'S SLAVES, A SHREWD AND DEPENDABLE GIRL NAMED MORGIANA...
YOU MUST HELP ME CONCEAL YOUR MASTER'S TRUE FATE, MORGIANA. IF IT WERE TO BE KNOWN THAT KASSIM HAS BEEN MURDERED, THEN THE THIEVES WOULD KNOW WHERE TO STRIKE NEXT--
--CONTINUING THEIR REVENGE WITH THE MURDER OF KASSIM'S FRIENDS AND KINFOLK.
THUS, WE MUST MAKE POOR KASSIM'S DEATH TO APPEAR NATURAL - AND OUR VERY LIVES DEPEND UPON THE SECRECY OF THIS ENDEAVOR.
FEAR NOT, ALI BABA. FOR ALL ANYONE WILL KNOW, MY MASTER KASSIM HAS YET TO DIE OF NATURAL CAUSES...BUT WILL SOON DO SO.

IN THE MORNING, MORGIANA WENT STRAIGHT TO THE DRUGGIST'S SHOP AND REQUESTED AN ELIXIR COMMONLY ADMINISTERED TO THOSE AFFLICTED WITH A GRAVE SICKNESS...
BUT WHO IN OUR HOUSE, MORGIANA, IS SO ILL AS TO REQUIRE THIS MEDICINE?
IT IS MY MASTER KASSIM WHO IS SICK, DRUGGIST --AND NIGH UNTO DEATH. WE ALMOST DESPAIR FOR HIS LIFE.
THE NEXT DAY, MORGIANA ASKED FOR EVEN STRONGER POTIONS -- AND WAS CAREFUL TO SHOW AN EXPRESSION OF GRIEF...
THANK YOU DRUGGIST -- BUT METHINKS HIS LIFE WILL HAVE ENDED BEFORE I EVEN RETURN TO THE HOUSE...
NEXT, MORGIANA DONNED A VEIL TO DISGUISE HER FACE AND WENT TO THE SHOP OF BABA MUSTAPHA, A TAILOR AND SHROUD-MAKER...
A GOLD COIN FOR YOU, BABA MUSTAPHA, IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO APPLY THIS BLINDFOLD TO YOUR EYES AND THEN DO AS I BID YOU.
IN ADDITION TO THE BLINDFOLD MORGIANA MADE SURE THAT THE ROOM WAS DARKENED AND KNEW THAT IN THIS WAY THE WOUNDS IN KASSIM'S BODY COULD NOT BE DETECTED..
NOW, IF YOU WILL REMAIN BLINDFOLDED AND SEW A FUNERAL SHROUD ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THIS DEAD MAN, I WILL GIVE YOU YET ANOTHER GOLD DUCAT.
AND SO, AS A RESULT OF MORGIANA'S SHREWD PLAN, KASSIM WAS BURIED WITH DUE HONORS... AND NO ONE WAS PRIVY TO THE SECRET...
THEN, AT THE REQUEST OF KASSIM'S WIDOW AND SONS, ALI BABA AND HIS WIFE MOVED INTO THE HOUSE OF HIS DEAD BROTHER...
ALL SEEMED WELL... BUT WAS NOT SO...

...FOR WHEN THE FORTY THIEVES NEXT RETURNED TO THEIR TREASURE DEN, THEY FOUND THAT KASSIM'S BODY WAS MISSING -- AS WELL AS MUCH OF THEIR GOLD
WE MUST FIND THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE MAGIC WORDS -- AND SLAY HIM BEFORE ANY MORE OF OUR TREASURE IS STOLEN!
WE MUST LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN WE SLEW -- FOR WHOEVER TOOK HIS BODY AWAY FOR BURIAL MUST BE HIS FRIEND OR RELATIVE.
AND SO, THE LEADER OF THE THIEVES DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A FOREIGN MERCHANT AND WENT TO THE SHOP OF BABA MUSTAPHA...
SHROUDMAKER, FOR WHOM HAVE YOU PREPARED A BODY FOR BURIAL? TELL ME, AND ALL THESE COINS ARE YOURS.
THERE WAS THE SLAVE GIRL -- BUT SHE KEPT HER FACE HIDDEN AND LED ME THROUGH THE STREETS BLINDFOLDED. STILL FOR SO MANY COINS, I AM CERTAIN I COULD RETRACE THE JOURNEY...
THUS, AS MORGIANA HAD LED HIM, BABA MUSTAPHA LED THE ROBBER CHIEF THROUGH THE STREETS, COUNTING STEP BY STEP UNTIL --
HERE. THIS FAR DID I COME WITH THE SLAVE GIRL.
GOOD.. THEN YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR COINS, BABA MUSTAPHA.
AND THE LEADER OF THE FORTY THIEVES DREW OUT A PIECE OF CHALK WITH WHICH TO MAKE A MARK ON THE FRONT DOOR OF KASSIM'S HOUSE, WHEREIN NOW DWELT ALI BABA...
THE HOUSES ON THIS STREET ALL LOOK ALIKE -- BUT THIS MARK WILL LEAD ME AND MY FELLOWS TO THE PROPER PLACE WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
A SHORT WHILE AFTER THE DISGUISED ROBBER CHIEF HAD DEPARTED, MORGIANA CHANCED TO RETURN FROM AN ERRAND...
THIS STRANGE CHALK MARKING -- SOME ENEMY HAS MADE A SIGN BY WHICH HE MAY RECOGNIZE THIS HOUSE AND VISIT EVIL UPON MY NEW MASTER...
TO PROTECT ALI BABA AND THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD, MORGIANA USED CHALK TO MAKE AN IDENTICAL MARK ON THE DOOR OF THE NEXT HOUSE...
THIS DEVICE SHOULD FOIL THE VILLAIN.

... AND SO ON, AND ON, AND ON -- UNTIL MORGIANA HAD MARKED THE DOOR OF EVERY HOUSE IN THE SQUARE.
THEN THE SHREWD SLAVE GIRL WENT TO A THIRD DOOR AND MARKED IT LIKEWISE...
NOW ALL THE HOUSES ARE AS THEY WERE BEFORE-- THE SAME. LET THEM TRY TO RECOGNIZE ONE FROM ALL THE OTHERS.
INDEED, WHEN THE FORTY THIEVES ENTERED THE TOWN THAT NIGHT, THEY WERE SORELY CONFOUNDED..
EVERY HOUSE HAS THE MARK -- WHICH IS THE RIGHT ONE ?!
FOILED, THE ROBBER CHIEF ORDERED HIS MEN TO RETURN TO THEIR HAUNT IN THE FOREST...
... WHERE HE LOST NO TIME IN ISSUING NEW COMMANDS.
BEFORE MORNING, YOU WILL STEAL TWENTY MULES AND FORTY LARGE LEATHER JARS SUCH AS ARE USED FOR TRANSPORTING OIL.
IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL RETURN TO THE TOWN AND AGAIN LOCATE THE PROPER HOUSE.
ACCORDINGLY, A'DEC A SECOND TIME BY BABA [illegible] WHO GAINED MANY [illegible] IN THIS MATTER, THE [illegible] ROBBER CHIEF [illegible] THE HOUSE NOW [illegible] AS ALI BABA
THIS TIME I WILL MAKE NO OUTWARD SIGN-- BUT MARK THIS PLACE IN THE TABLET OF MY HEART, AND IMPRESS ITS PICTURE UPON THE PAGE OF MY MIND.

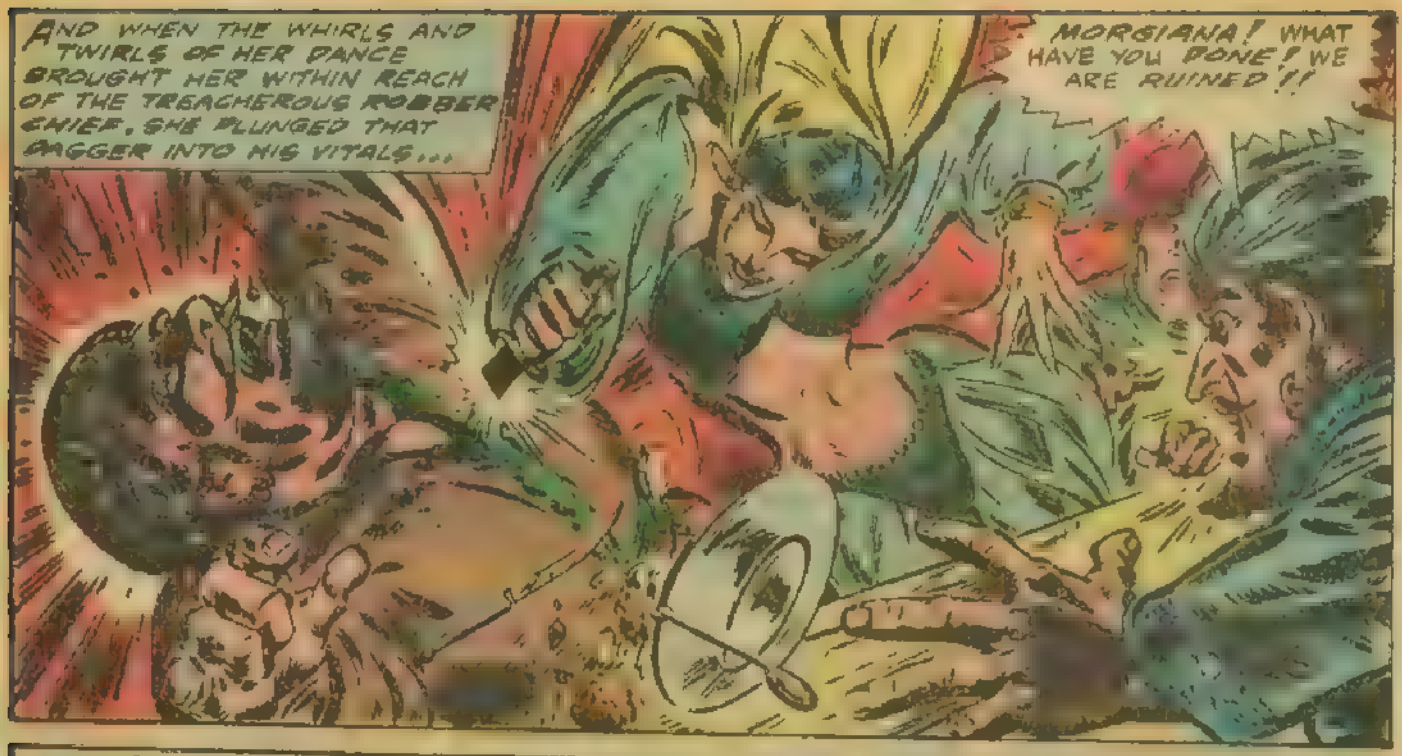
THE ROBBER CHIEF THEN RETURNED TO HIS BAND IN THE FOREST, AND ISSUED FINAL INSTRUCTIONS...
IN THE GUISE OF AN OIL MERCHANT, I WILL LEAD THE MULES INTO TOWN. ARRIVING AT THE HOUSE NIGHT, I WILL ASK PERMISSION OF ITS MASTER TO STAY THERE TILL MORNING --AND IN THE DARK HOURS WE WILL RISE UP AND SLAY HIM.
AND SO, WITH HIS THIRTY-NINE MEN THUS HIDDEN (ONE OF THE FORTY JARS WAS ACTUALLY FILLED WITH OIL), THE ROBBER CHIEF SET OFF ON THE JOURNEY...
REMEMBER, DO NOT RISE UP UNTIL YOU HEAR MY VOICE GIVING THE SIGNAL.

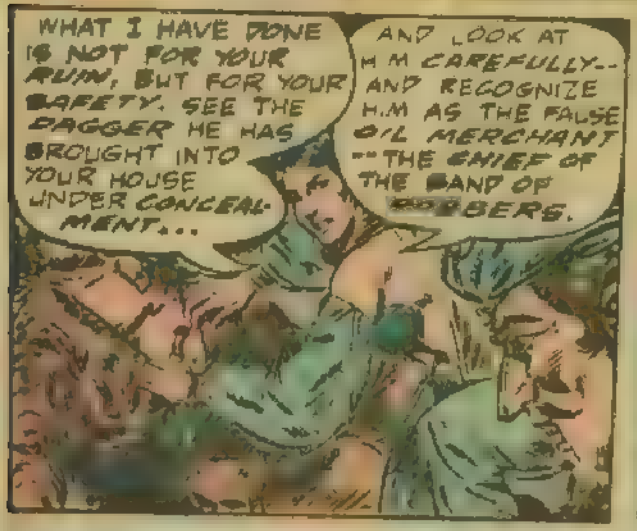

AS PREDICTED, THE DISGUISED ROBBER CHIEF REACHED THE HOUSE OF ALI BABA BY NIGHTFALL...
HAVE PITY ON ME AND GRANT THAT I MIGHT TARRY HERE TO EASE MY MULES OF THEIR BURDENS.
YOU ARE WELCOME TO SLEEP IN MY HOUSE, MERCHANT. TETHER YOUR MULES AND UNLOAD THE JARS INTO THE EMPTY SHED IN BACK.
WHEN THE JARS HAD BEEN UNLOADED, THE ROBBER CHIEF PRETENDED A GREAT SLEEPINESS...
YOU MAY SLEEP HERE, MERCHANT. GOOD NIGHT-- IT IS TIME I RETIRED MYSELF.
BUT OF COURSE THE CHIEF PLANNED TO WAIT UNTIL HE WAS CERTAIN ALI BABA HAD GONE TO SLEEP, WHEREUPON HE WOULD STEAL OUT TO THE SHED AND SIGNAL HIS FELLOW CUTTHROATS...
...BUT DURING THAT TIME OF WAITING, IT SO HAPPENED THAT MORGIANA WAS WORKING IN THE KITCHEN WHEN THE LAMP WENT OUT...
NOW WE WILL HAVE NO LIGHT -- FOR THERE ARE NO CANDLES IN THE HOUSE AND WE HAVE USED ALL OUR OIL.
BUT THERE IS PLENTY OF OIL IN THE SHED. GO NOW AND TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU NEED FROM ONE OF THE JARS. I'M SURE THE MERCHANT WOULD AGREE IT IS SMALL PAYMENT FOR OUR HOSPITALITY.

MORGIANA ENTERED THE SHED, AS BIDDEN BY ALI BABA'S ELDEST NEPHEW, BUT WHEN SHE APPROACHED THE NEAREST JAR--
IS IT TIME FOR US TO RISE UP ?
SHE WAS AT FIRST STARTLED, TO SAY THE LEAST.
HOWEVER, BEING BOLD AND READY OF WIT, SHE NEGATED THE QUESTIONING VOICE OF A MAN AND SAID...
NO, THE TIME IS NOT YET.
MOVING TO EACH VESSEL IN TURN, SHE WAS GREETED BY THE SAME QUESTION FROM WITHIN-- AND TO EACH SHE WAS AGREED THE SAME REPLY..
...UNTIL SHE REACHED THE FORTIETH AND LAST JAR WHICH WAS SILENT AND BRIMMING WITH OIL. THIS SHE POURED INTO A HUGE CAULDRON SO THAT IT WOULD SOON BECOME BOILING HOT..
WHEN THIS WAS DONE, SHE FILLED HER URN WITH THE SCALDING OIL AND POURED IT SEETHING INTO THE FIRST OF THE OTHER THIRTY-NINE VESSELS...
IT SEEMS MY MASTER HAS MISTAKENLY ADMITTED A BAND OF ROBBERS WHO AWAIT A SIGNAL TO DO HIM TO DEATH AND PLUNDER THE PLACE. BUT METHINKS THEY WILL NOT EXPECT A SIGNAL SUCH AS THIS...
INDEED, ONE BY ONE, MORGIANA POURED THE BURNING OIL INTO THE VESSELS UNTIL EVERY JAR WAS FOREVER SILENT.
NOW TO TAKE UP A PLACE OF HIDING AND AWAIT THE END OF THIS MATTER...

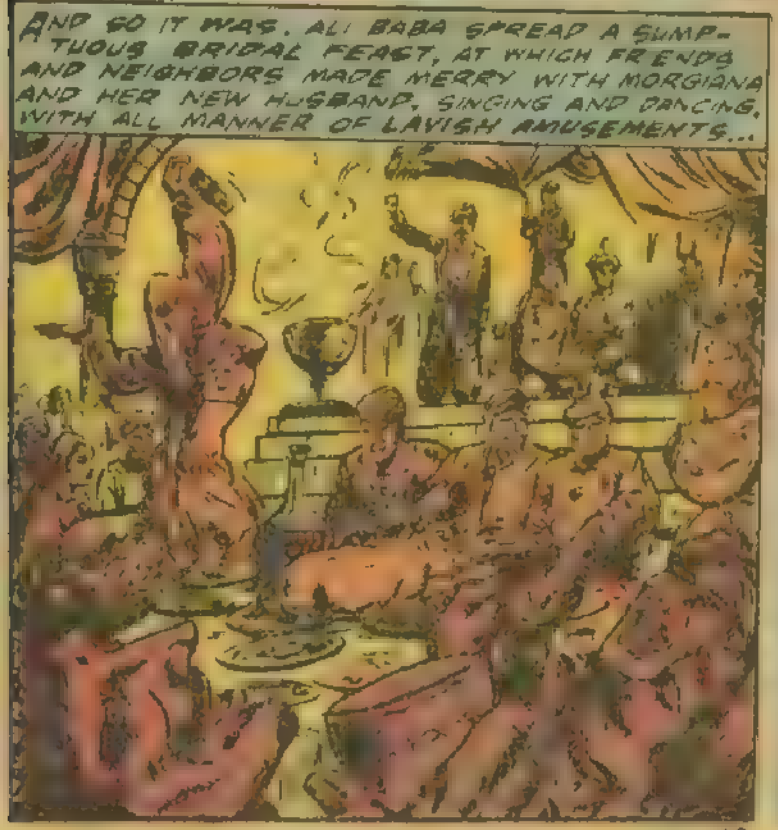
FINALLY, THE FALSE OIL MERCHANT VENTURED FORTH FROM THE HOUSE --AND, RECEIVING NO RESPONSE TO HIS SIGNAL, HE PEERED INTO THE JARS...
DEAD--ALL OF THEM DEAD! THEN THEY HAVE SOMEHOW LEARNED OF MY PLOT AND FOILED IT!
SOON THEY WILL COME FOR ME-- I MUST FLEE FOR MY VERY LIFE!
MORGIANA WATCHED THE ROBBER CHIEF'S FLIGHT WITH SATISFACTION. NOW SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO SLEEP THE NIGHT IN PEACE--
--WAITING UNTIL MORNING TO SHOW ALI BABA THE EVIDENCE OF LAST NIGHT'S NEAR ASSASSINATION.
MORGIANA, WHAT EVILS HAVE WE SO NARROWLY ESCAPED--? I WOULD HEAR THE FULL STORY OF THIS TERRIBLE MATTER.
OVER BREAKFAST, MORGIANA RELATED THE WHOLE TALE OF CHALK MARKS AND THIEVES LURKING IN JARS... UNTIL ALI BABA'S HEAD WAS FAIRLY SPINNING.
MORGIANA, YOUR CONDUCT HAS DONE ME GREAT HONOR. IF EVER A SLAVE GIRL HAS DESERVED HER FREEDOM, IT IS YOU.
THANK YOU, SIR, BUT I PREFER TO REMAIN HERE IN THIS HOUSEHOLD ...WHERE I MAY BE NEAR YOUR NEPHEW, KASSIM'S ELDEST SON.
AND I MUST WARN YOU-- BEWARE THE ONE VILLAIN WHO FLED HERE ALIVE.
THE WARNING PROVED TO BE WELL ADVISED, FOR THE ROBBER CHIEF HAD ALREADY RESOLVED TO SLAY ALI BABA ONCE AND FOR ALL. ASSUMING A NEW DISGUISE, HE RENTED A STALL IN THE BAZAAR...
NOW TO FORM A FRIENDSHIP WITH THIS ALI BABA'S NEPHEW IN THE STALL ACROSS FROM ME-- THUS GAINING ACCESS TO MY ENEMY'S HOUSE...

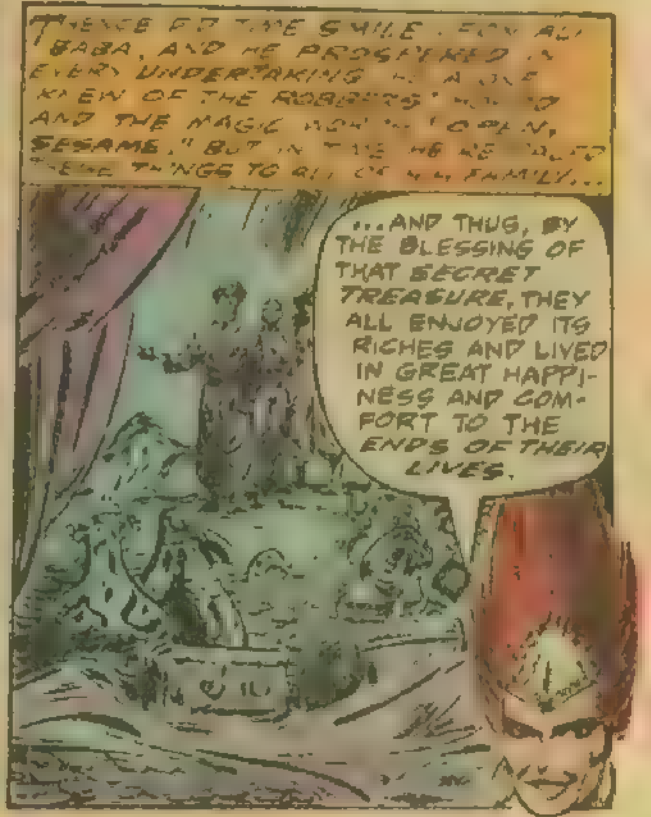
SOON BY GIVING THE NEPHEW PRESENTS AND SPENDING TIME WITH HIM EACH DAY, THE ROBBER CHIEF GAINED THE YOUNG MAN'S CONFIDENCE..
I WILL BE THERE, MY FRIEND.
GOOD MERCHANT, MY UNCLE HAS HEARD MUCH OF YOU AND YOUR GOODNESS TOWARD ME-- AND DESIRES TO MEET YOU AT SUPPER TONIGHT.
THE DISGUISE PROVED TO BE QUITE EFFECTIVE THAT NIGHT, AND ALI BABA SUSPECTED NO ILL INTENTIONS...
...BUT WHEN MORGIANA ENTERED TO SERVE THE MEAL SHE WAS FOOLED FOR NOT A SINGLE MOMENT.
IT IS HIM AGAIN! AND THERE IS A DAGGER CONCEALED UNDER HIS CLOTHING. THEN I MUST FIND A WAY TO DISPATCH HIM BEFORE HE CAN SLAY ALI BABA IN SURPRISE.
MAY I HAVE LEAVE TO DANCE IN HONOR OF OUR MASTER AND HIS GUEST?
BY ALL MEANS, MORGIANA --DON YOUR VEILS AND DANCE YOUR VERY BEST THAT OUR GOOD GUEST MAY BE MIRTHFUL AND MERRY.
THUS, WITH ALL POSSIBLE HASTE, MORGIANA DRESSED HERSELF IN THE GARB OF A DANCER..
LET THE DANCE BEGIN, MORGIANA!
BUT IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL TRAPPINGS OF A DANCER, THE CUNNING MORGIANA HAD OUTFITTED HERSELF WITH ONE OTHER ITEM...
A DAGGER


AND WHEN THE WHIRLS AND TWIRLS OF HER DANCE BROUGHT HER WITHIN REACH OF THE TREACHEROUS ROBBER CHIEF, SHE PLUNGED THAT DAGGER INTO HIS VITALS...
MORGIANA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE! WE ARE RUINED!!


WHAT I HAVE DONE IS NOT FOR YOUR RUIN, BUT FOR YOUR SAFETY. SEE THE DAGGER HE HAS BROUGHT INTO YOUR HOUSE UNDER CONCEALMENT...
AND LOOK AT HIM CAREFULLY-- AND RECOGNIZE HIM AS THE FALSE OIL MERCHANT --THE CHIEF OF THE BAND OF ROBBERS.

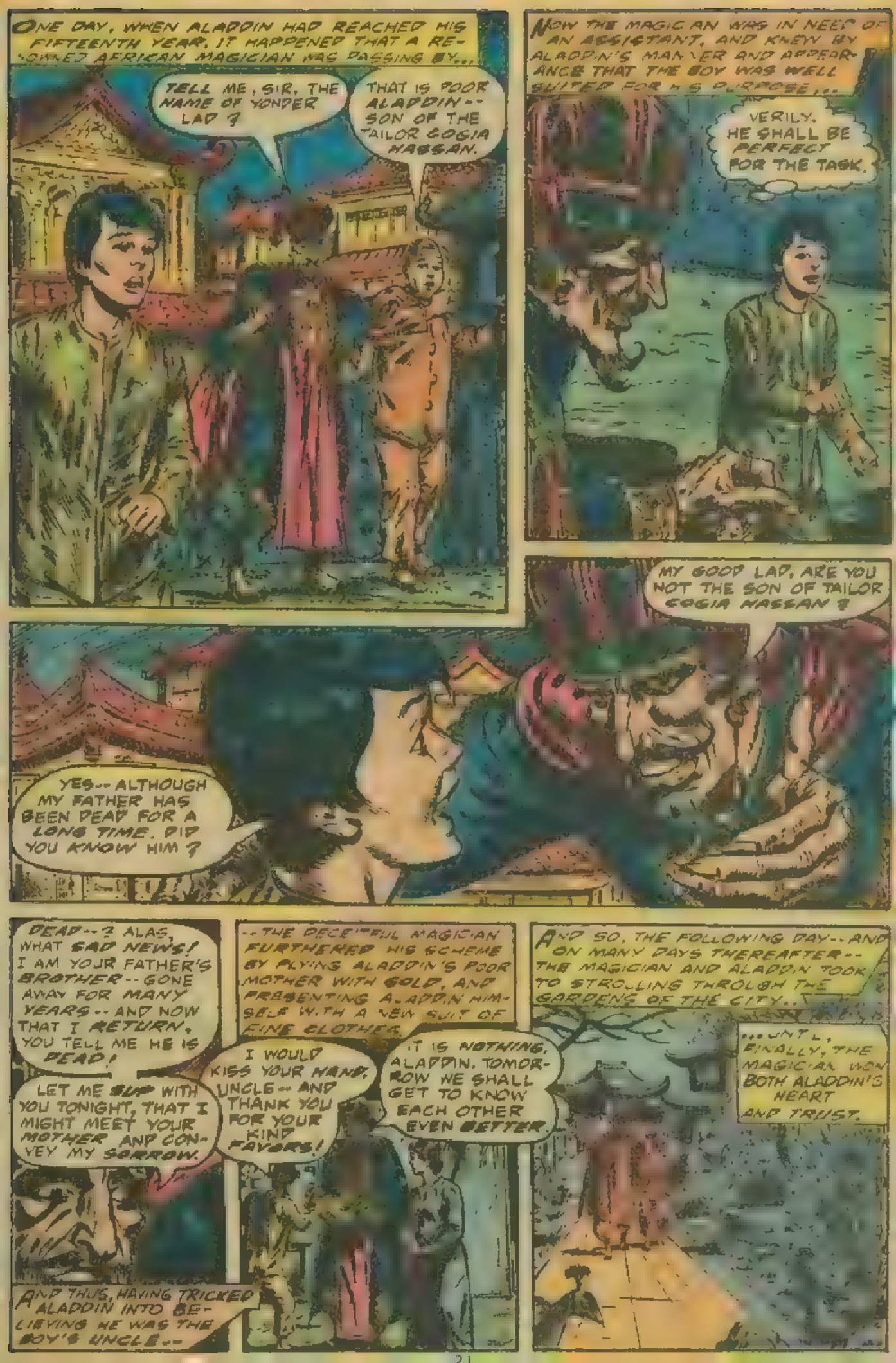
TWO TIMES HAVE YOU SAVED ME BY YOUR GOOD SENSE AND WISDOM, MORGIANA. I HAVE ALREADY FREED YOU-- BUT AS FURTHER REWARD, I SHALL WED YOU TO MY NEPHEW.


AND SO IT WAS. ALI BABA SPREAD A SUMPTUOUS BRIDAL FEAST, AT WHICH FRENDS AND NEIGHBORS MADE MERRY WITH MORGIANA AND HER NEW HUSBAND, SINGING AND DANCING, WITH ALL MANNER OF LAVISH AMUSEMENTS...


THENCE ED THE SMILE. FOR ALI BABA, AND HE PROSPERED IN EVERY UNDERTAKING. HE ALONE KNEW OF THE ROBBERS' HOARD AND THE MAGIC WORD... "OPEN, SESAME." BUT IN THE HE WE'LL TO THESE THINGS TO ALL OF HIS FAMILY...
...AND THUS, BY THE BLESSING OF THAT SECRET TREASURE, THEY ALL ENJOYED ITS RICHES AND LIVED IN GREAT HAPPINESS AND COMFORT TO THE ENDS OF THEIR LIVES.

THE LIGHT OF MORNING FILLS THE PALACE OF SHAHRYAR...
AND A MOST WONDROUS TALE IT WAS, SCHEHEREZADE-- INDEED, THE VERY BEST I HAVE EVER HEARD...
AND THUS ENDS THE TALE OF ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES. O KING AND HUSBAND.
I CONFESS THAT I AM ALMOST RELUCTANT TO HAVE YOU BEHEADED IN THE MANNER OF MY PAST WIVES... BUT SUCH IS MY CUSTOM.
YES, O KING, IT IS A PITY THAT THIS SLAUGHTER OF WOMEN MUST CONTINUE...
... BUT IT IS AN EVEN GREATER PITY THAT YOU HAVE HEARD ONLY MY POOREST STORY...
WHAT--? YOU HAVE MORE SUCH TALES?
INDEED, I HAVE MANY MORE SUCH TALES--EACH ONE MORE ENTHRALLING THAN THE LAST. BUT I AM AFRAID I HAVE NOT TROUBLED TO WRITE THEM DOWN, SO...
HMMM... I SEE. WELL THIS WILL TAKE A BIT OF PONDERING. I'VE NEVER DONE SUCH A THING BEFORE. BUT... WELL, YES, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE... AFTER ALL, I AM THE KING...
STAY YOUR SCIMITAR EXECUTIONER. I HAVE DECIDED AGAINST THIS BEHEADING OF SCHEHEREZADE, METHINKS SHE SHALL RISE--
"...AND LIVE THROUGH ONE MORE DAY AND NIGHT OF MARRIED BLISS."
ARE YOU COMFORTABLE, O KING AND HUSBAND, AND PREPARED FOR THE SECOND OF MY TALES...?
TELL ON, SCHEHEREZADE WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS FABLE?

IT IS CALLED, O KING, BY MANY NAMES, BUT ON THIS NIGHT OF ENCHANTED NIGHTS WE SHALL CALL IT --
ALADDIN and the Magical Lamp
IN A CITY OF OLD CHINA, THERE ONCE LIVED A LAD CALLED ALADDIN -- WHOSE FATHER DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG.
AND SO YOUNG ALADDIN LIVED WITH HIS MOTHER, A POOR WIDOW WHO WAS FORCED TO SPIN COTTON IN ORDER TO FEED HERSELF AND HER SON...


ONE DAY, WHEN ALADDIN HAD REACHED HIS FIFTEENTH YEAR, IT HAPPENED THAT A RE-NOWNED AFRICAN MAGICIAN WAS PASSING BY...
TELL ME, SIR, THE NAME OF YONDER LAD?
THAT IS POOR ALADDIN -- SON OF THE TAILOR KOGIA HASSAN.
NOW THE MAGICIAN WAS IN NEED OF AN ASSISTANT, AND KNEW BY ALADDIN'S MANNER AND APPEARANCE THAT THE BOY WAS WELL SUITED FOR HIS PURPOSE...
VERILY, HE SHALL BE PERFECT FOR THE TASK.
MY GOOD LAD, ARE YOU NOT THE SON OF TAILOR KOGIA HASSAN?
YES -- ALTHOUGH MY FATHER HAS BEEN DEAD FOR A LONG TIME. DID YOU KNOW HIM?
DEAD -- ? ALAS, WHAT SAD NEWS! I AM YOUR FATHER'S BROTHER -- GONE AWAY FOR MANY YEARS -- AND NOW THAT I RETURN, YOU TELL ME HE IS DEAD!
LET ME SUP WITH YOU TONIGHT, THAT I MIGHT MEET YOUR MOTHER AND CONVEY MY SORROW.
AND THUS, HAVING TRICKED ALADDIN INTO BELIEVING HE WAS THE BOY'S UNCLE --
-- THE DECEITFUL MAGICIAN FURTHERED HIS SCHEME BY PLYING ALADDIN'S POOR MOTHER WITH GOLD, AND PRESENTING ALADDIN HIMSELF WITH A NEW SUIT OF FINE CLOTHES.
I WOULD KISS YOUR HAND, UNCLE -- AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND FAVORS!
IT IS NOTHING, ALADDIN. TOMORROW WE SHALL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER EVEN BETTER.
AND SO, THE FOLLOWING DAY -- AND ON MANY DAYS THEREAFTER -- THE MAGICIAN AND ALADDIN TOOK TO STROLLING THROUGH THE GARDENS OF THE CITY...
...UNTIL, FINALLY, THE MAGICIAN WON BOTH ALADDIN'S HEART AND TRUST.

BUT ONE DAY, THEY PACED IDLY FROM ONE GARDEN TO ANOTHER, UNTIL ALADDIN WAS SURPRISED TO FIND THEY HAD LEFT ALL BEHIND...
WHERE ARE WE GOING, UNCLE? WE HAVE ALREADY REACHED THE BARREN HILL COUNTRY-- SHOULD WE NOT RETURN TO TOWN?
HAVE COURAGE, NEPHEW--AND I WILL SHOW YOU MARVELOUS MATTERS THE LIKES OF WHICH NO LIVING MAN HAS EVER SEEN!
ALADDIN WAS STILL UNCERTAIN WHEN THEY REACHED A CERTAIN SITE SOUGHT BY THE MAGICIAN--BUT HE NEVERTHELESS KINDLED A FIRE AS INSTRUCTED. THE
THE MAGICIAN BEGAN TO MUTTER STRANGE INCANTATIONS.
...AND WHEN FOUL-SMELLING INCENSE WAS HURLED ONTO THE FIRE...
KARROOM
--THE VERY GROUND CLEAVED ASUNDER!
UNCLE, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! THIS PLACE TERRIFIES ME--LET US DEPART AT ONCE!
NO, ALADDIN--DO AS I BID, AND YOU SHALL BECOME WEALTHIER THAN ANY KING!
FIRST, SET YOUR HAND UPON THE [redacted] AND RAISE UP THE SLAB.
FEARING THE WRATH OF THIS MAN WHOM HE THOUGHT TO BE HIS UNCLE, ALADDIN DID AS HE WAS TOLD--FINDING THAT THE SLAB LIFTED UP WITH GREAT EASE, AND REVEALED TWELVE STONE STEPS INTO DARKNESS...
DO AS I TELL YOU IN EVERY DETAIL AND YOU SHALL WIN IMMENSE RICHES. GO DOWN THESE STAIRS INTO THE GREAT CAVERN BELOW...
AND WHEN THE MAGICIAN HAD GIVEN ALADDIN CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS...
YOU WILL FIND THE LAMP HANGING IN THAT PART OF THE CAVERN I HAVE DESCRIBED--TAKE THE LAMP AND BRING IT BACK TO ME.
AND HERE--WEAR THIS, MY RING, WHICH SHALL PROTECT YOU FROM ALL HARM

DESCENDING INTO THE CAVERN, ALADDIN FOUND FOUR HALLS, EACH CONTAINING FOUR HUGE JARS OVERFLOWING WITH GOLD..

BUT THE MAGICIAN HAD WARNED HIM, ON PENALTY OF INSTANT DEATH, TO AVOID TOUCHING THESE...

... AND SO, HE PASSED THROUGH ONE OF THE HALLS OUT INTO THE MAGICAL GARDEN DESCRIBED BY HIS "UNCLE"

HERE THE TREES BORE IMMENSE JEWELS AND PRECIOUS STONES, ALL OF BRILLIANT HUES AND DAZZLING RADIANCE OUTSHINING THE SHEEN OF A MIDDAY SUN...

THE MAGICIAN HAD NOT WARNED ALADDIN AGAINST PLUCKING IN THE GARDEN, SO ALADDIN PLUCKED MANY OF THE GEMS, BUT HE WAS TOO POOR TO RECOGNIZE THE JEWELS, HAVING NEVER SEEN ANY, AND TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THEY COULD BE SUCH...

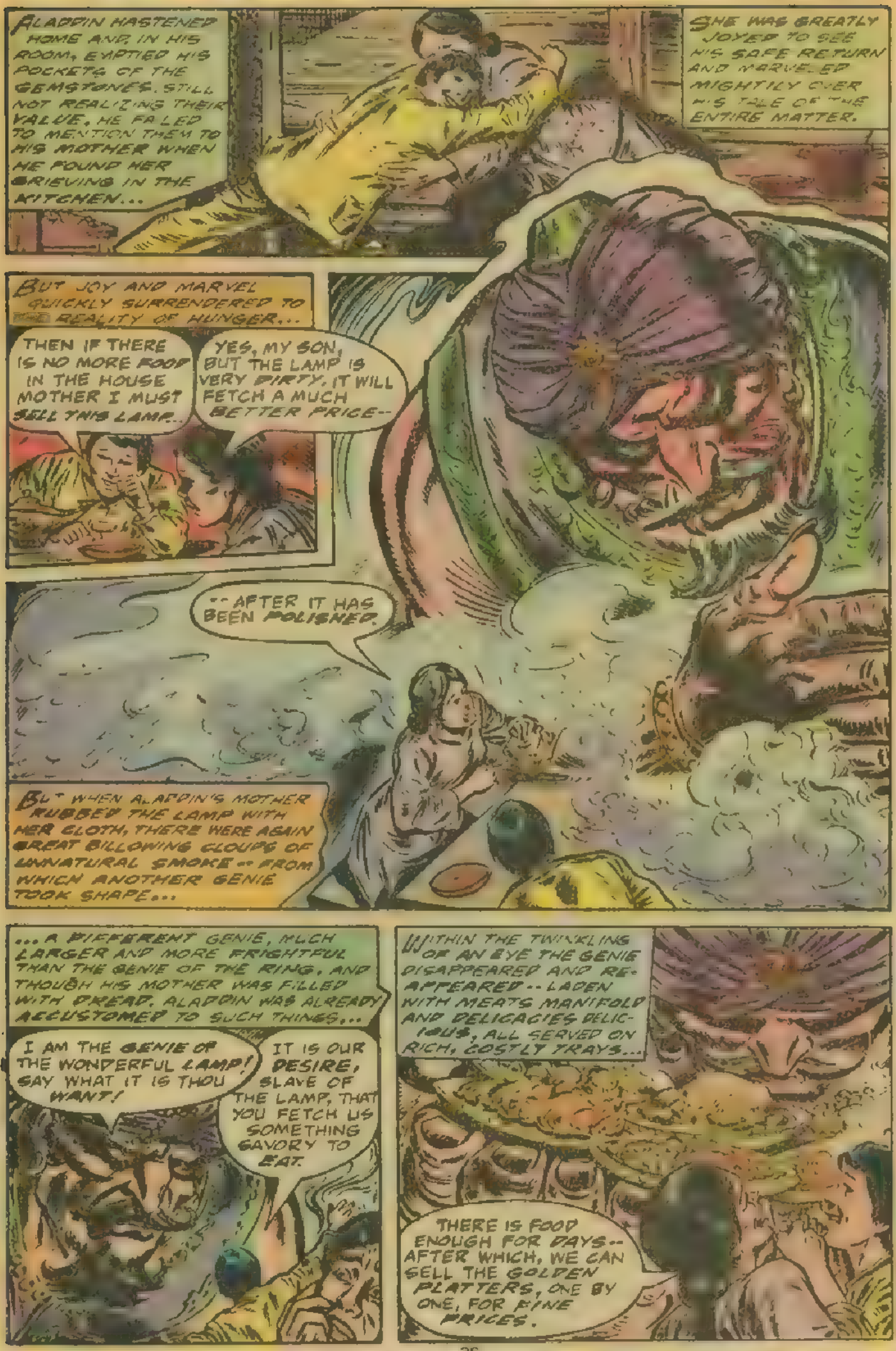
I WILL COLLECT AS MANY OF THESE GLASS FRUITS AS I CAN CARRY -- AND USE THEM FOR PLAYTHINGS AT HOME.

PASSING FROM THE FABULOUS GARDEN, ALADDIN THEY ENTERED AN OPEN SALON...

-- WHEREIN HUNG THE PRECIOUS LAMP SOUGHT BY THE MAGICIAN

ALADDIN QUICKLY MADE HIS WAY BACK TO THE TWELVE STAIRS -- BUT, NOW BURDENED WITH THE WEIGHT OF SO MANY GEMSTONES, HE WAS UNABLE TO MOUNT THE LAST STAIR AND REQUESTED AID
GIVE ME THE LAMP, ALADDIN, AND THUS LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD.
NO, UNCLE, FIRST LEND ME A HAND-- AND AS SOON AS I REACH THE GROUND, I WILL GIVE YOU THE LAMP.
WITH THAT, THE MAGICIAN FLEW INTO AN AWESOME RAGE, FEARING BEFIT...
SO! YOU SEEK TO TRICK ME AND KEEP THE LAMP FOR YOURSELF! BUT IF YOU WILL NOT GIVE IT TO ME-- THEN NO ONE SHALL HAVE THE LAMP!
NOW ALL MY HOPE IS BAFFLED--ALL MY WORK WASTED!
WHAM!
NO! HE HAS SHUT ME IN-- AND THE SLAB WILL NOT OPEN! I AM TRAPPED!
BUT AT LEAST I MAY RETURN TO MY LAND OF AFRICA KNOWING THAT THE WRETCHED BOY WILL NEVER ESCAPE.
NOW DO I SEE THE TRICK FOR CERTAIN. HE WAS NOT MY UNCLE -- BUT A LIAR AND A WICKED WIZARD. AND NOW I MUST DESPAIR FOR MY LIFE, FOR THERE IS NO WAY I MAY HOPE TO ESCAPE THIS CAVERN...
BUT ALADDIN WAS WRONG.

INDEED, EVEN AS HE SAT IN DESPAIR, AND WRUNG HIS HANDS OVER THIS GREAT SORROW--
--HIS FINGERS CHANCED TO RUB THE MAGICIAN'S RING...
PUFFS OF STRANGE SMOKE BLOSSOMED FROM THE RING'S STONE...
...TO FORM THE FRIGHTFUL APPARITION OF A SUPERNATURAL GENIE
ADSUM! I AM THE SLAVE OF HIM WHO WEARS THE RING--AND WHOSE HAND HAS FREED ME FROM THE PRISON OF THAT RING!
WHAT IS THY WISH?
SORELY FRIGHTENED BY THIS OCCURRENCE, ALADDIN WAS NONETHELESS QUICK TO SPEAK HIS WISH...
I DESIRE YOU TO SET ME BACK UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
IT SHALL BE GRANTED...
HARDLY HAD THE GENIE SPOKEN WHEN ALADDIN FOUND HIMSELF BACK OUTSIDE!
FREE! HOW I REJOICE TO SEE THE SHINE OF THE SUN!
AND AS ALADDIN SPOKE, THE GENIE RETURNED TO SMOKE, AND THE SMOKE TO THE RING.

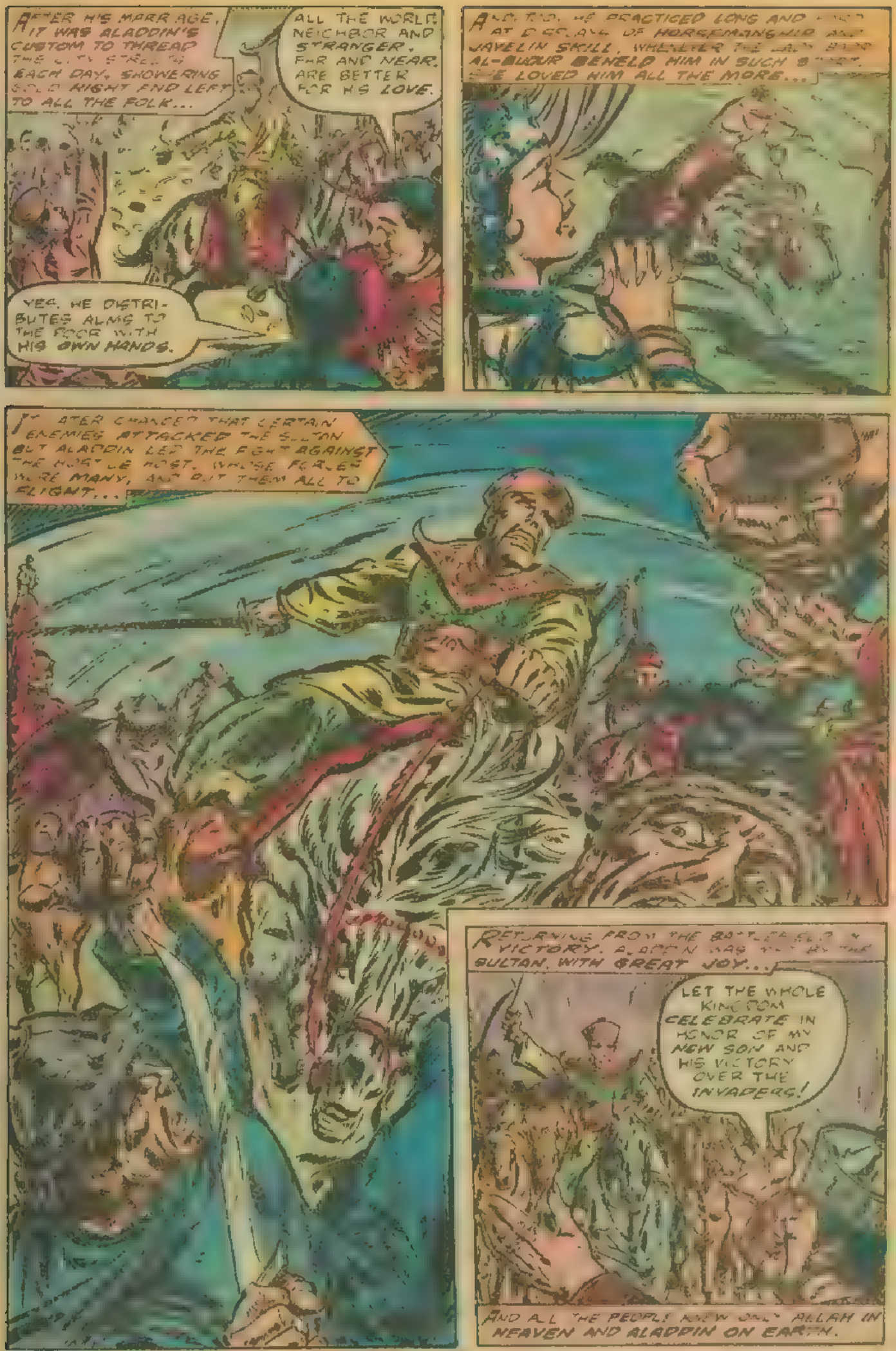

ALADDIN HASTENED HOME AND, IN HIS ROOM, EMPTIED HIS POCKETS OF THE GEMSTONES. STILL NOT REALIZING THEIR VALUE, HE FAILED TO MENTION THEM TO HIS MOTHER WHEN HE FOUND HER GRIEVING IN THE KITCHEN...
SHE WAS GREATLY JOYED TO SEE HIS SAFE RETURN AND MARVELED MIGHTILY OVER HIS TALE OF THE ENTIRE MATTER.
BUT JOY AND MARVEL QUICKLY SURRENDERED TO THE REALITY OF HUNGER...
THEN IF THERE IS NO MORE FOOD IN THE HOUSE MOTHER I MUST SELL THIS LAMP..
YES, MY SON, BUT THE LAMP IS VERY DIRTY. IT WILL FETCH A MUCH BETTER PRICE--
--AFTER IT HAS BEEN POLISHED.
BUT WHEN ALADDIN'S MOTHER RUBBED THE LAMP WITH HER CLOTH, THERE WERE AGAIN GREAT BILLOWING CLOUDS OF UNNATURAL SMOKE -- FROM WHICH ANOTHER GENIE TOOK SHAPE...
...A DIFFERENT GENIE, MUCH LARGER AND MORE FRIGHTFUL THAN THE GENIE OF THE RING. AND THOUGH HIS MOTHER WAS FILLED WITH DREAD, ALADDIN WAS ALREADY ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH THINGS...
I AM THE GENIE OF THE WONDERFUL LAMP! SAY WHAT IT IS THOU WANT!
IT IS OUR DESIRE, SLAVE OF THE LAMP, THAT YOU FETCH US SOMETHING SAVORY TO EAT.
WITHIN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE THE GENIE DISAPPEARED AND RE-APPEARED -- LADEN WITH MEATS MANIFOLD AND DELICACIES DELICIOUS, ALL SERVED ON RICH, COSTLY TRAYS...
THERE IS FOOD ENOUGH FOR DAYS-- AFTER WHICH, WE CAN SELL THE GOLDEN PLATTERS, ONE BY ONE, FOR FINE PRICES.

AND SO, WITH THE HELP OF THE SLAVE OF THE LAMP, ALADDIN AND HIS MOTHER FOUND THEMSELVES IN BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. THEN, ONE DAY AS ALADDIN PASSED THE STALL OF A JEWELLER IN THE BAZAAR...
THESE SHINING STONES -- PRICED AT SUCH PRECIOUS VALUE, THEN THAT WHICH I PLUCKED IN THE UNDERGROUND GARDEN WERE NOT PLAYTHINGS...
...BUT RATHER GEMSTONES -- AND MY SMALLEST GEM IS WORTH FAR MORE THAN THIS JEWELLER'S BIG-GEST. IT SEEMS I HAVE ACQUIRED IMMENSE WEALTH INDEED, AND IF--
MAKE WAY FOR THE SULTAN'S DAUGHTER!
CLEAR THE STREET FOR THE LADY BADR AL-BUDUR!
EH--? THE SULTAN'S DAUGHTER -- SHE OF WHOSE GREAT BEAUTY EVERYONE SPEAKS. IT HAS LONG BEEN MY DESIRE TO SEE HER...
AND WHEN ALADDIN'S DESIRE WAS FULFILLED, HIS HEART IMMEDIATELY SWELLED WITH LOVE...
THE LADY BADR AL-BUDUR IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN WORDS CAN DESCRIBE! I SHALL NOT REST UNTIL I WIN HER!
ALADDIN'S MOTHER, HOWEVER, WAS NOT SO CERTAIN...
MY SON, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES? HOW CAN THE ORPHAN OF A POOR TAILOR HOPE TO WED THE PEERLESS DAUGHTER OF THE SULTAN OF CHINA?!
YOU WILL PLEAD MY TROTH, MOTHER -- AND PRESENT TO THE SULTAN A BOWL OF PRECIOUS GEMS THE LIKES OF WHICH NO KING HAS EVER SEEN.

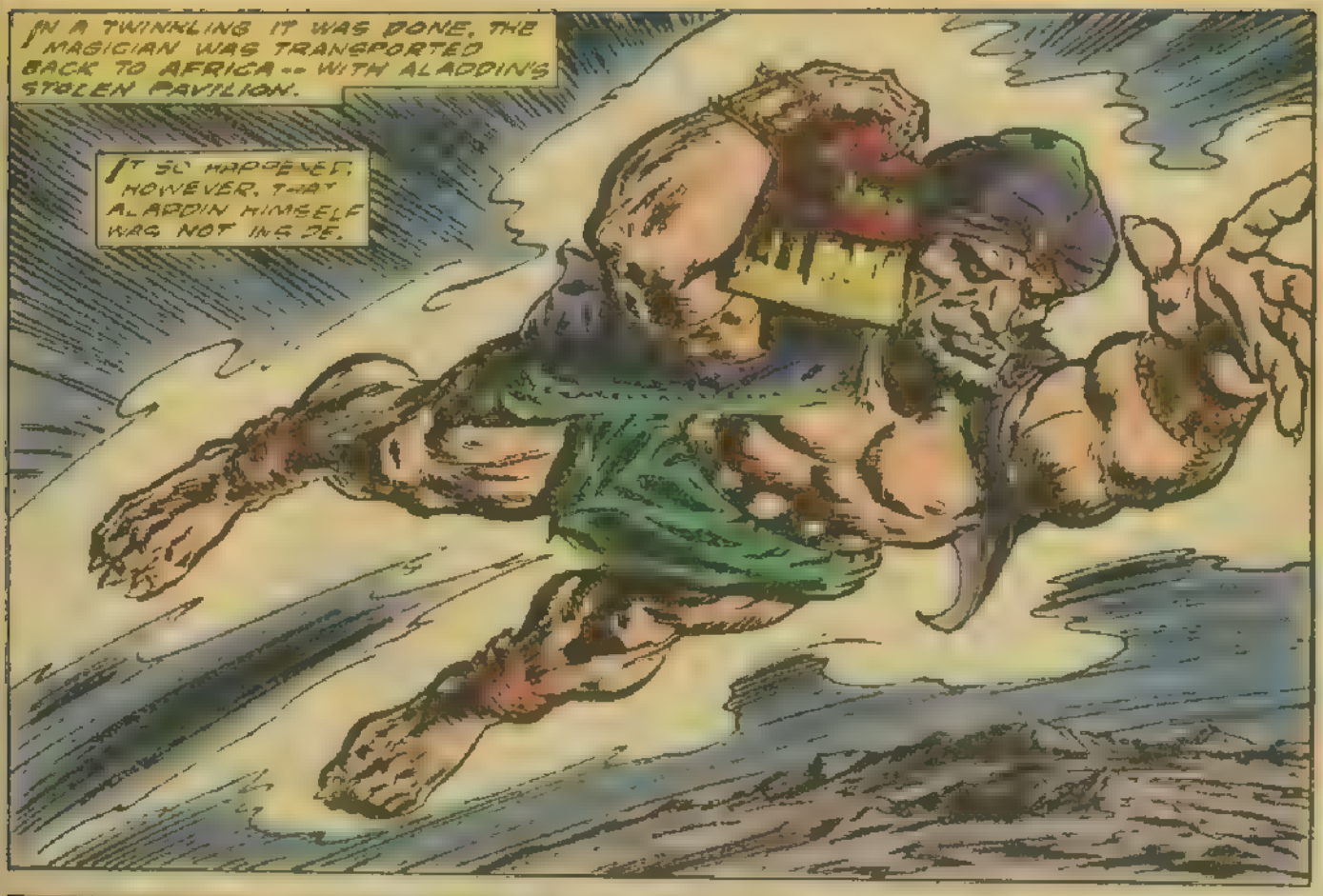
THUS, IT CAME THAT ON THE MORNING, ALADDIN'S MOTHER APPEALED TO THE GREAT SULTAN OF CHINA...
O LORD, MY SON ALADDIN HAS ASKED ME TO REQUEST FOR HIM THE HAND OF YOUR DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE.
BEFORE I REPLY, WOMAN, SHOW ME WHAT GIFT YOU CONCEAL UNDER THAT KERCHIEF.
ALADDIN'S MOTHER REMOVED THE CLOTH TO REVEAL THE BOWL OF "GLASS FRUIT," THE SULTAN WAS DAZED AND AMAZED BY THEIR RADIANCE...
NEVER HAVE I SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THESE JEWELS-- WHOEVER PRESENTS SUCH IS TRULY WORTHY OF BEING MY DAUGHTER'S BRIDEGROOM.
GO TELL YOUR SON THAT MY DAUGHTER SHALL BE HIS--BUT HE MUST HAVE PATIENCE FOR THREE MONTHS WHILST THE PERSONAL PREPARATIONS ARE MADE.
UPON RECEIVING THE SULTAN'S MESSAGE, ALADDIN'S HEART SOARED WITH JOY...
THANK YOU, MOTHER! YOU HAVE JUST MADE ME THE HAPPIEST AND MOST FORTUNATE MAN IN THE WORLD! THE SULTAN HAS GIVEN HIS PROMISE.
BUT WHEN THE THREE MONTHS HAD PASSED, THE SULTAN'S WORD PROVED TO BE LESS THAN BINDING--AND SO ALADDIN SENT HIS MOTHER TO REMIND THE KING OF HIS PLEDGE...
HMMM... YOU ARE MY GRAND VIZIER. WHAT SHOULD I DO-- ALLOW MY DAUGHTER TO WED THIS WOMAN'S SON?
O MY LORD, DEMAND FORTY MORE PLATTERS OF GEMS SUCH AS THE WOMAN BROUGHT BEFORE, CARRIED BY FORTY SLAVES.
YES--IF HER SON HAS THE POWER TO PAY SUCH A DOWRY, HE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER.

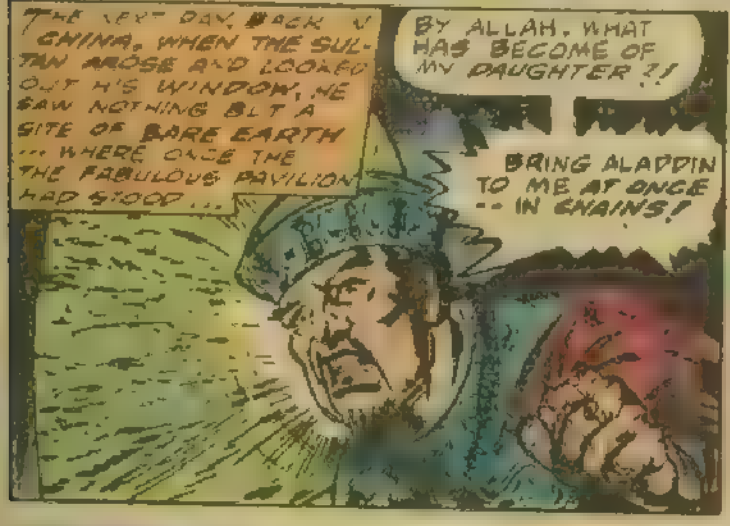
FILLED WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AND FEAR, ALADDIN'S MOTHER RETURNED HOME WITH THE SULTAN'S REQUEST BUT ALADDIN ONLY SMILED...
FEAR NOT, MOTHER. THE DOWRY SHALL BE GRANTED FORTHWITH--
--BY THE GENIE OF THE LAMP!
I WANT FORTY BEAUTIFUL SLAVES TO GO TO THE PALACE OF THE SULTAN, EACH BEARING A PLATTER FILLED WITH THE GLASS FRUIT FROM THE UNDERGROUND GARDEN!
I HEAR, O MASTER OF THE LAMP. I SHALL OBEY.
AND SOON CROWDS LINED THE AVENUE LEADING TO THE SULTAN'S PALACE, MARVELING AT THE SPECTACLE OF A MIRACLE...
EVEN THE SULTAN'S SENSES WERE STUPEFIED...
I ACCEPT THE DOWRY AND STAND TO MY BARGAIN. LET THIS ALADDIN COME TO ME AND TARRY NOT!
IT IS TIME I SHOULD MEET MY NEW SON.

CLAD IN A MOST PRECIOUS AND PRINCELY SUIT (BY VIRTUE OF THE WONDERFUL LAMP), AND AMID A RETINUE OF FORTY-EIGHT SOLDIERS (BY VIRTUE OF THE SULTAN!) ALADDIN RODE IN STATE TO THE PALACE, AND HE SCATTERED PIECES OF GOLD AMONGST THE CROWD..
HOW ADMIRABLE IS HIS EXCEEDING GENEROSITY!
MEETING WITH ALADDIN, THE SULTAN WAS ASTOUNDED BY THE YOUNG MAN'S ELOQUENCE AND DELICACY OF SPEECH.. AND THE MORE THEY TALKED, THE MORE DID HIS PLEASURE AND DELIGHT INCREASE...
YOU ARE A FINE LAD.. MOST DESERVING TO BE MY SON.
THANK YOU, O SULTAN, BUT 'TIS NOW MY DESIRE TO ERECT FOR THE PRINCESS A PAVILION BEFITTING HER HIGH STATION AND GREAT BEAUTY.
AND, OF COURSE, WHATEVER WAS ALADDIN'S DESIRE... WAS THE GENIE'S COMMAND.
THAT NIGHT, THE SLAVE OF THE LAMP WORKED WITH ALL URGENCY..
.. SO THAT, BY MORNING, IT WAS COMPLETED... AND THE SULTAN'S EYES WERE DAZZLED BY ITS GRANDEUR.
O, HOW THIS MAGNIFICENCE DISTRACTS THE EYE AND ATTRACTS THE HEART!
THE PRINCESS FELL HEADLONG IN LOVE WITH ALADDIN, AND THEIR WEDDING WAS A SPLENDID AFFAIR LONG TO BE REMEMBERED...
AFTER THE FESTIVITIES THEY WOULD BE ESCORTED IN A CAVALCADE, WITH ALL CEREMONY, TO THE BRIDEGROOM'S FABULOUS PAVILION


AFTER HIS MARRIAGE, IT WAS ALADDIN'S CUSTOM TO THREAD THE CITY STREETS EACH DAY, SHOWERING GOLD RIGHT AND LEFT TO ALL THE FOLK...
ALL THE WORLD, NEIGHBOR AND STRANGER, FAR AND NEAR, ARE BETTER FOR HIS LOVE.
YEA, HE DISTRIBUTES ALMS TO THE POOR WITH HIS OWN HANDS.
AND TOO, HE PRACTICED LONG AND WELL AT DISPLAY OF HORSEMANSHIP AND JAVELIN SKILL, WHEREBY THE LADY BADR AL-BUDUR BENEID HIM IN SUCH WISE THAT SHE LOVED HIM ALL THE MORE...
AFTER CHANCED THAT CERTAIN ENEMIES ATTACKED THE SULTAN BUT ALADDIN LED THE FIGHT AGAINST THE HOSTILE HOST, WHOSE FORCES WERE MANY, AND PUT THEM ALL TO FLIGHT...
RETURNING FROM THE BATTLEFIELD VICTORY, ALADDIN WAS MET BY THE SULTAN, WITH GREAT JOY...
LET THE WHOLE KINGDOM CELEBRATE IN HONOR OF MY NEW SON AND HIS VICTORY OVER THE INVADERS!
AND ALL THE PEOPLE KNEW ONLY ALLAH IN HEAVEN AND ALADDIN ON EARTH.

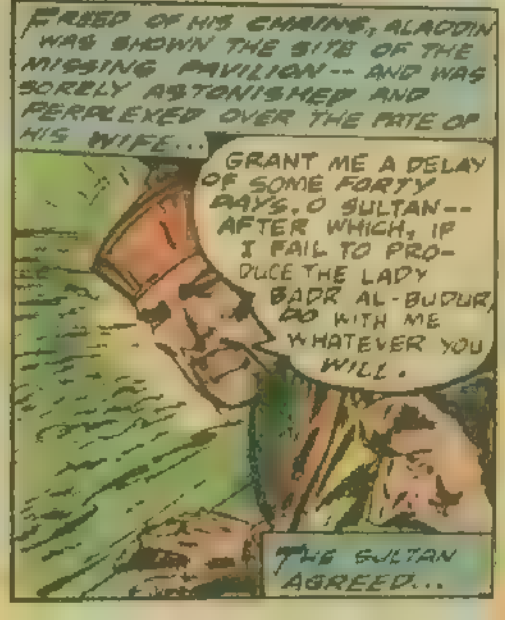
BY THIS TIME ALADDIN'S OLD ENEMY, THE AFRICAN MAGICIAN, LEARNED THROUGH HIS ARCANE ARTS THAT ALADDIN WAS ENORMOUSLY RICH AND MUCH BELOVED IN THE CITY -- INSTEAD OF BEING DEAD IN THE ENCHANTED CAVE. HE RETURNED TO CHINA A RAGE...
ALADDIN -- ? YOU MUST BE A STRANGER IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD OF ALADDIN -- HE WHOSE YONDER PAVILION IS ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD.
THAT WAS ALL THE CRAFTY MAGICIAN NEEDED TO KNOW. DISGUISING HIMSELF AS A MERCHANT, HE PROCURED A BASKET OF NEW COPPER LAMPS AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE STREETS NEAR ALADDIN'S PAVILION...
NEW LAMPS FOR OLD! WHO WILL CHANGE THEIR OLD LAMPS FOR THESE NEW?
YOU MUST BE MAD, SIR -- BUT I WILL CHANGE MY OLD LAMP FOR YOUR NEW.
BUT THE MAGICIAN KNEW THAT NONE OF THE OLD LAMPS WAS THE SPECIAL ONE HE SOUGHT. AT LAST HE CAME TO THE PAVILION AND SPOKE TO THE LADY BADR AL-BUDUR..
NEW LAMPS FOR OLD, YOUR HIGHNESS? WILL YOU TRADE ONE OF YOUR OLD AND SOILED LAMPS FOR ONE OF MY FINE NEW ONES?
A STRANGE OFFER, MERCHANT, BUT YES -- WAIT A MOMENT.
NOW THE PRINCESS KNEW NOTHING OF THE SPECIAL PROPERTIES POSSESSED BY HER HUSBAND'S LAMP... UNFORTUNATELY.
FETCH THE OLD LAMP WHICH IS IN ALADDIN'S ROOM, AND BARTER IT FOR A NEW ONE WITH YON MERCHANT BELOW.
YES, PRINCESS.
THE SLY EVIL MAGICIAN RECOGNIZED THE ENCHANTED LAMP AT ONCE...
... AND LEFT ALL THE OTHERS BEHIND.
AND THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...
UPRAISE ALADDIN'S PAVILION, AND EVERYTHING WITHIN, AND SET IT DOWN WITH MYSELF IN MY LAND OF AFRICA!

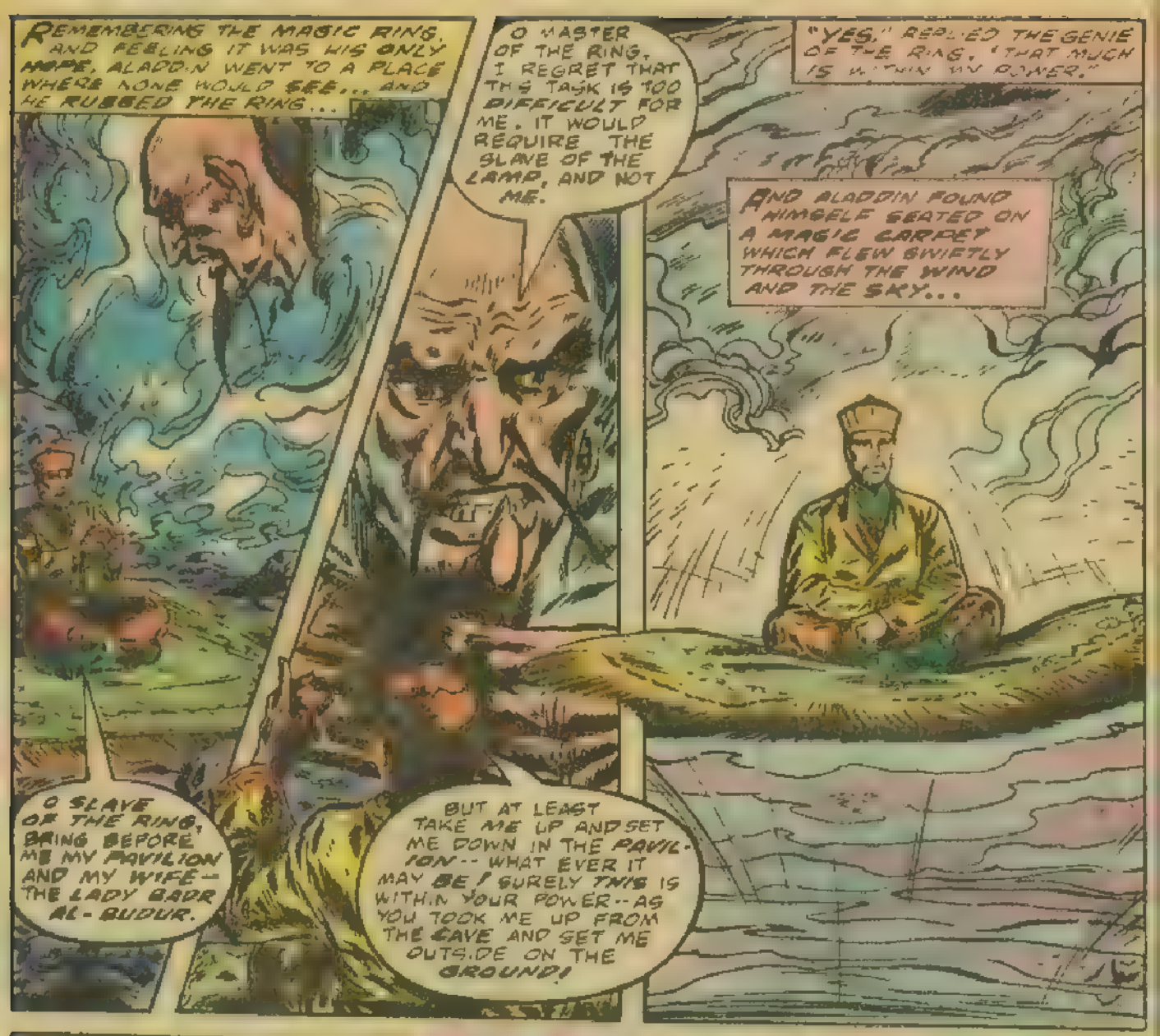

IN A TWINKLING IT WAS DONE. THE MAGICIAN WAS TRANSPORTED BACK TO AFRICA -- WITH ALADDIN'S STOLEN PAVILION.
IT SO HAPPENED, HOWEVER, THAT ALADDIN HIMSELF WAS NOT INCLUDED.

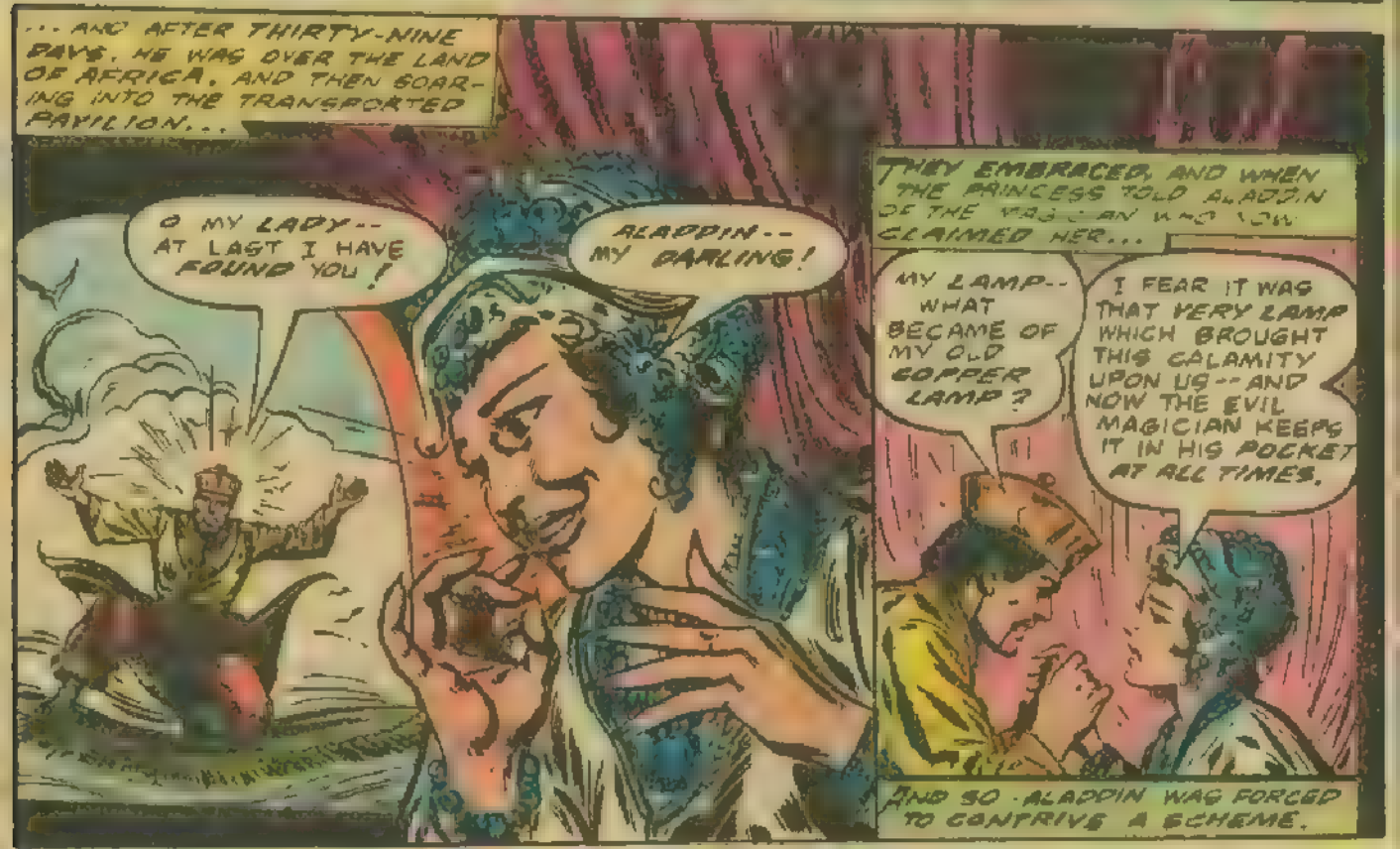

THE NEXT DAY, BACK IN CHINA, WHEN THE SULTAN AROSE AND LOOKED OUT HIS WINDOW, HE SAW NOTHING BUT A SITE OF BARE EARTH ... WHERE ONCE THE THE FABULOUS PAVILION HAD STOOD ...
BY ALLAH, WHAT HAS BECOME OF MY DAUGHTER ?!
BRING ALADDIN TO ME AT ONCE -- IN CHAINS!

IT WAS SO DONE -- BUT THE ENRAGED PEOPLE SEIZED THEIR WEAPONS AND STORMED THE PALACE GATES...
FREE ALADDIN !!

THEY HAVE BECOME A MOB, O SULTAN, SAYING THEY WILL LEVEL THE PALACE OVER OUR HEADS IF THE LEAST HARM SHOULD COME TO ALADDIN.
THEN IT SEEMS THE PEOPLE LOVE ALADDIN FAR MORE THAN THEY LOVE US. VERY WELL -- TELL THEM THAT I PARDON MY SON-IN-LAW AND RECEIVE HIM BACK INTO FAVOR.


FREED OF HIS CHAINS, ALADDIN WAS SHOWN THE SITE OF THE MISSING PAVILION -- AND WAS SORELY ASTONISHED AND PERPLEXED OVER THE FATE OF HIS WIFE...
GRANT ME A DELAY OF SOME FORTY DAYS, O SULTAN -- AFTER WHICH, IF I FAIL TO PRODUCE THE LADY BADR AL-BUDUR, DO WITH ME WHATEVER YOU WILL.
THE SULTAN AGREED...

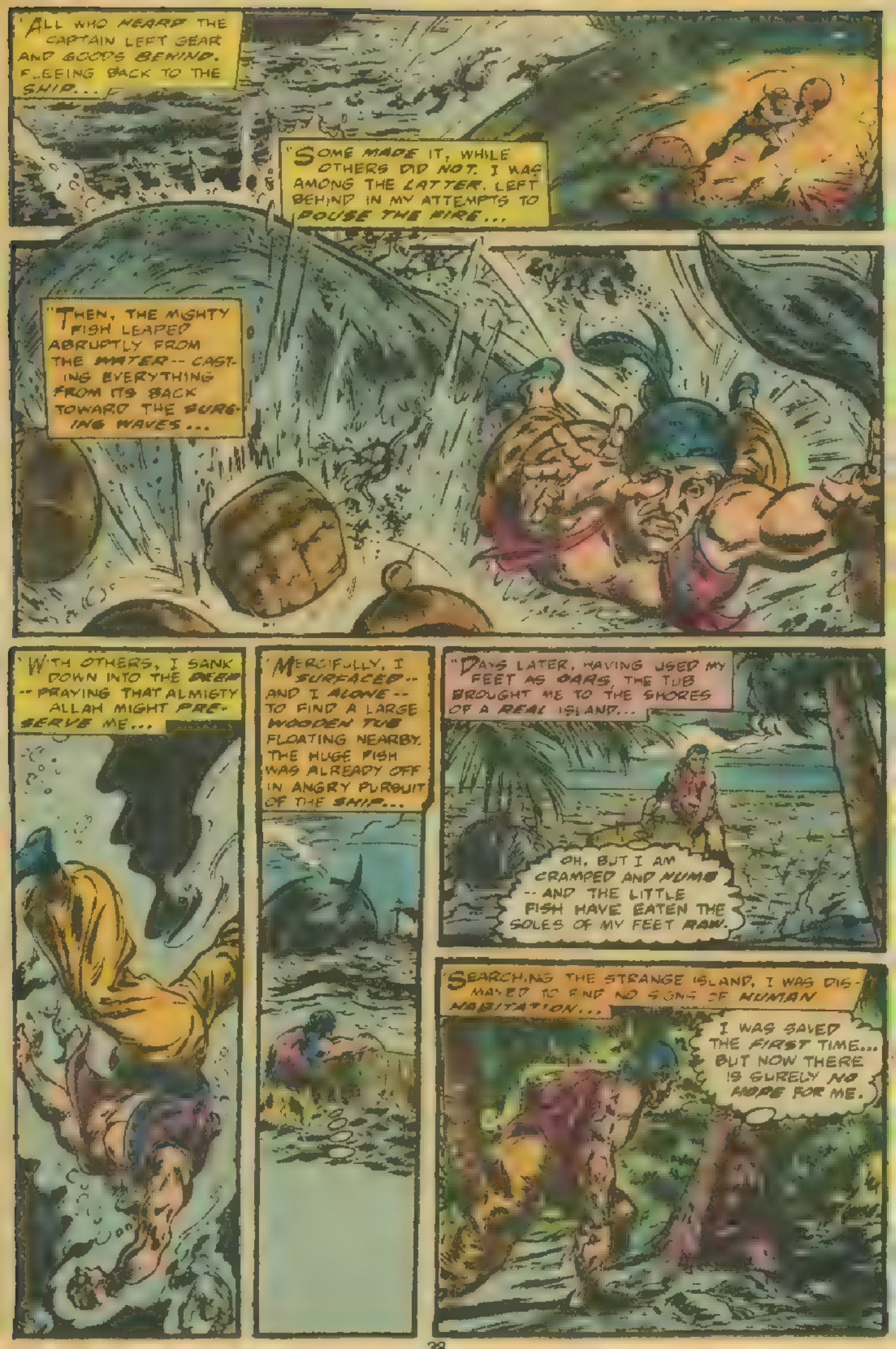

REMEMBERING THE MAGIC RING, AND FEELING IT WAS HIS ONLY HOPE, ALADDIN WENT TO A PLACE WHERE NONE WOULD SEE... AND HE RUBBED THE RING...
O MASTER OF THE RING, I REGRET THAT THIS TASK IS TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME. IT WOULD REQUIRE THE SLAVE OF THE LAMP, AND NOT ME.
"YES," REPLIED THE GENIE OF THE RING, "THAT MUCH IS WITHIN MY POWER."
AND ALADDIN FOUND HIMSELF SEATED ON A MAGIC CARPET WHICH FLEW SWIFTLY THROUGH THE WIND AND THE SKY...
O SLAVE OF THE RING, BRING BEFORE ME MY PAVILION AND MY WIFE— THE LADY BADR AL-BUDUR.
BUT AT LEAST TAKE ME UP AND SET ME DOWN IN THE PAVILION— WHAT EVER IT MAY BE! SURELY THIS IS WITHIN YOUR POWER— AS YOU TOOK ME UP FROM THE CAVE AND SET ME OUTSIDE ON THE GROUND!


... AND AFTER THIRTY-NINE DAYS, HE WAS OVER THE LAND OF AFRICA, AND THEN SOARING INTO THE TRANSPORTED PAVILION...
O MY LADY— AT LAST I HAVE FOUND YOU!
ALADDIN— MY DARLING!
THEY EMBRACED, AND WHEN THE PRINCESS TOLD ALADDIN OF THE MAGICIAN WHO NOW CLAIMED HER...
MY LAMP— WHAT BECAME OF MY OLD COPPER LAMP?
I FEAR IT WAS THAT VERY LAMP WHICH BROUGHT THIS CALAMITY UPON US— AND NOW THE EVIL MAGICIAN KEEPS IT IN HIS POCKET AT ALL TIMES.
AND SO ALADDIN WAS FORCED TO CONTRIVE A SCHEME.

THAT EVENING WHEN THE MAGICIAN CAME TO VISIT THE PRINCESS, SHE PLIED HIM WITH STRONG WINES...
...UNTIL HIS SENSES BECAME DULL
...WHEREUPON ALADDIN APPEARED FROM HIS PLACE OF HIDING TO SLAY THE WICKED MAGICIAN...
...AND THUS REGAIN POSSESSION OF THE WONDERFUL LAMP.
TAKE UP MY PAVILION FROM THIS COUNTRY, O GENIE OF THE LAMP, AND SET IT DOWN UPON ITS FORMER PLACE IN CHINA --NEXT TO THE PALACE OF THE SULTAN.
IT SHALL BE DONE, O RIGHTFUL MASTER OF THE LAMP.
IN THE FLASH OF A MOMENT, ALL WERE REUNITED AND THE SULTAN REJOICED TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER AND THE RESTORED PAVILION...
FORGIVE ME, MY SON ALADDIN -- PARDON ME FOR DOUBTING YOUR HONOR.
NEITHER OF US IS AT FAULT, O SULTAN -- IT WAS THE MAGICIAN WHO CAUSED OUR TROUBLES, AND HE IS NOW ENDED.
WHEN THE SULTAN DIED, ALADDIN ROSE IN HIS PLACE, AND HE DEALT JUSTLY WITH THOSE IN HIS KINGDOM SO THAT ALL PEOPLE LOVED HIM...
...AND HE LIVED WITH HIS WIFE THE PRINCESS IN HAPPINESS FOREVER AFTER.

AND SO DID THE SECOND NIGHT OF SCHEHEREZADE GIVE WAY TO THE LIGHT OF DAWN...
MUST WE AGAIN GO THROUGH THE GAME WITH THE EXECUTIONER, O KING AND HUSBAND-- OR HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED THAT ANOTHER NIGHT'S TALE MIGHT BE PLEASING?
YOU ARE NOT A COMMON WIFE SCHEHEREZADE-- BY ALLAH, THAT YOU ARE NOT. YOUR TALES OF FANCY MAKE THE BITTER FACT OF LIFE ALMOST BEARABLE.
I POSSESS A KINGDOM, PALACES, SLAVES -- EVERYTHING I COULD POSSIBLY DESIRE... SAVE THAT ONE THING YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, THAT WHICH REAL LIFE CAN NEVER OFFER -- THE FANTASY OF DREAMS MADE REAL.
YOU HAVE TAKEN GOLDEN DREAMS AND FITTED THEM WITH WINGS -- TO SEND THEM SOARING THROUGH THE FARTHEST REACHES OF MY IMAGINATION...
"YES, SCHEHEREZADE, YOU SHALL LIVE THROUGH ANOTHER NIGHT'S TALE... FOR I COULD NOT BEAR RETURNING TO THE COLD, HARD GROUND."
THEN LISTEN KING SHAHRYAR, TO THE FAR-FLUNG VOYAGES OF--
SINBAD the SAILOR
DURING THE REIGN OF THE CALIPH HAROUN AL-RASCHID, THERE DWELT IN THE CITY OF BAGDAD AN OLD MAN NAMED SINBAD...

THE MERCHANTS OF BASORAH WERE ENVIOUS OF SINBAD'S GREAT WEALTH AND LUXURIOUS LIFE, AND SO HE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN A SAILOR SPOKE TO THEM ONE DAY...
YOU HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT MY WEALTH, BUT KNOW THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN GAINED WITHOUT GREAT LABOR AND CONSIDERABLE DANGER.
INDEED, ONCE YOU HAVE LISTENED TO MY TALES OF MY TRAVELS, I DOUBT IF YOU SHALL ENVY ME NEARLY SO MUCH...
"IN MY YOUTH," BEGAN SINBAD, "I DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO MANY PARTS FAR AND WIDE. I VOYAGED FIRST IN THE COMPANY OF MANY MERCHANTS SUCH AS YOURSELVES-- AND WE PASSED FROM ISLE TO ISLE AND SEA TO SEA...
"...BUYING, SELLING, AND BARTERING EVERYWHERE.
"AT LENGTH WE REACHED AN ISLAND, SMALL IN SIZE, BUT LIKE A GARDEN OF PARADISE...
'TIS SO PEACEFUL AND PLEASANT HERE.
YES, LET US BUILD A FIRE FOR A WARM MEAL.
"BUT WHILE WE WERE SO ENGAGED, THE ISLAND BEGAN TO SHAKE VIOLENTLY --AND THE CAPTAIN CRIED OUT FROM THE SHIP...
NO, MY PASSENGERS-- RUN FOR YOUR LIVES-- BACK TO THE SHIP BEFORE YOU ARE DESTROYED!
ALLAH PRESERVE YOU! THAT IS NOT A TRUE ISLAND-- BUT A GREAT FISH WHEREON SAND HAS SETTLED AND TREES HAVE SPRUNG UP!
WHEN YOU LIGHTED THE FIRE, THE FISH AWAKENED TO THE HEAT! IT WILL SOON SUBMERGE AND YOU WILL ALL BE DROWNED!

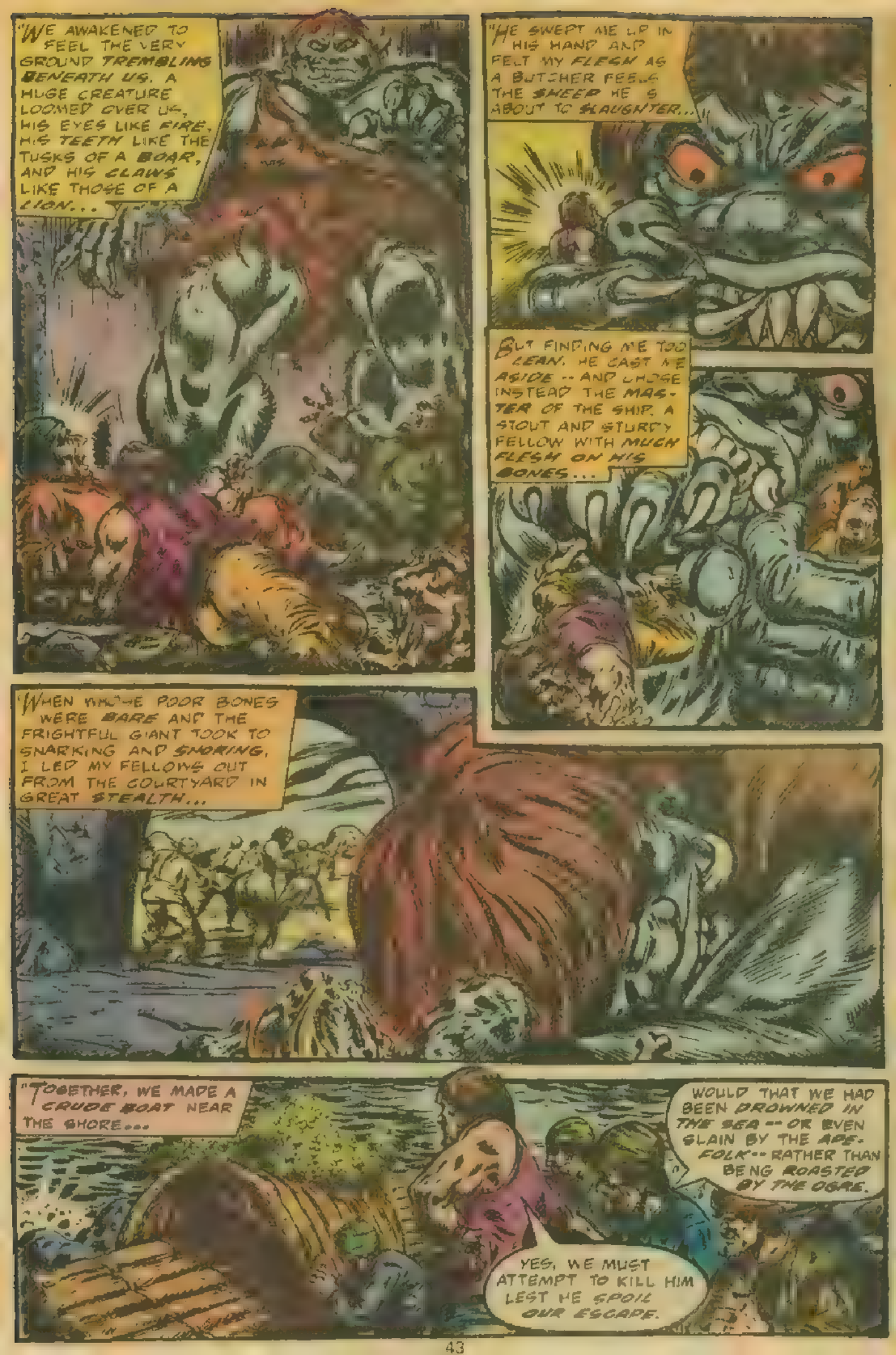

'ALL WHO HEARD THE CAPTAIN LEFT GEAR AND GOODS BEHIND. FLEEING BACK TO THE SHIP...
"SOME MADE IT, WHILE OTHERS DID NOT. I WAS AMONG THE LATTER, LEFT BEHIND IN MY ATTEMPTS TO DOUSE THE FIRE...
"THEN, THE MIGHTY FISH LEAPED ABRUPTLY FROM THE WATER -- CASTING EVERYTHING FROM ITS BACK TOWARD THE SURGING WAVES...
'WITH OTHERS, I SANK DOWN INTO THE DEEP -- PRAYING THAT ALMIGTY ALLAH MIGHT PRESERVE ME...
'MERCIFULLY, I SURFACED -- AND I ALONE -- TO FIND A LARGE WOODEN TUB FLOATING NEARBY. THE HUGE FISH WAS ALREADY OFF IN ANGRY PURSUIT OF THE SHIP...
"DAYS LATER, HAVING USED MY FEET AS OARS, THE TUB BROUGHT ME TO THE SHORES OF A REAL ISLAND...
OH, BUT I AM CRAMPED AND NUMB -- AND THE LITTLE FISH HAVE EATEN THE SOLES OF MY FEET RAW.
SEARCHING THE STRANGE ISLAND, I WAS DISMAYED TO FIND NO SIGNS OF HUMAN HABITATION...
I WAS SAVED THE FIRST TIME... BUT NOW THERE IS SURELY NO HOPE FOR ME.

I CLIMBED A TALL TREE, THE BETTER TO LOOK IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND...
THE GREAT WHITE THING IN THE DISTANCE -- WHAT STRANGE OBJECT CAN IT BE? I MUST INVESTIGATE THIS AT ONCE...
"LO AND BEHOLD, IT WAS A HUGE WHITE DOME OF EXCEEDING SMOOTHNESS, RISING HIGH INTO THE AIR AND ENCOMPASSING GREAT VOLUME...
IT MUST MEASURE A GOOD HUNDED PACES IN CIRCUMFERENCE -- YET THERE IS NO DOOR TO ENTER IT. WHAT CAN THIS THING BE -- ?
SUDDENLY THE AIR BECAME THICK AND DARK WITH SHADOW...
EH -- ? HAS A CLOUD COME OVER THE SUN... ?
"BUT, TO MY HEART'S GREAT DISCOMFORT, I SAW THAT THE CLOUD WAS NOTHING LESS THAN A FEARSOME BIRD OF MONSTROUS SIZE...
THE TALES OF THE HUGE BIRD -- THE ROC -- WHICH FEEDS ITS YOUNG ON ELEPHANTS! THIS DOME IS THE EGG OF A ROC!
FEARING FOR MY LIFE, I DIVED UNDER ONE END OF THE GIGANTIC EGG, PRAYING THAT THE WINGED MONSTER HAD NOT SEEN ME...
"MY PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED AS THE ROC ALIGHTED ON THE DOME AND BEGAN TO BROOD OVER IT.

WHEN THE ROC FELL ASLEEP IN THIS POSTURE, I EMERGED FROM MY HIDING PLACE AND TWISTED MY TURBAN INTO A ROPE--WITH WHICH I BOUND MYSELF TO THE ROC'S LEG...
WHEN THE ROC AWAKENS, HOPEFULLY IT WILL CARRY ME OFF THIS DESERTED ISLAND--TO A LAND OF CITIES AND PEOPLE.
AT DAWN, THE ROC ROSE FROM ITS EGG AND, SPREADING ITS AWESOME WINGS WITH A SHRILL CRY FLEW HIGH INTO THE AIR--CARRYING ME ALONG
"HAVING FINALLY CROSSED THE VAST SEA, THE MONSTER BIRD DESCENDED TO THE PEAK OF A MOUNTAIN ON SOME UNKNOWN MAINLAND...
"I CUT MYSELF FREE OF ITS LEG--
"--AND USED MY OWN LEGS IN ALL HASTE TO ESCAPE THE ROC.
AT LENGTH I FOUND MYSELF ON A PEAK OVERLOOKING A VALLEY WHICH SEEMED TO GLITTER IN THE STRANGEST FASHION AND WHICH WAS BOUNDED BY VAST MOUNTAINS ON ALL SIDES...
"WOULD THAT I HAD STAYED ON THE ISLAND! IT WAS FAR BETTER THAN THIS WILD PLACE. VERILY, AS SOON AS I AM SAVED FROM ONE PERIL, I FALL INTO A WORSE DANGER.
TAKING WHAT LITTLE COURAGE I STILL RETAINED, I ENTERED THE VALLEY AND SAW--TO MY GREAT ASTONISHMENT--THAT IT'S SO VAST SURFACE WAS COMPOSED OF ONE VAST CARPET OF DIAMONDS...

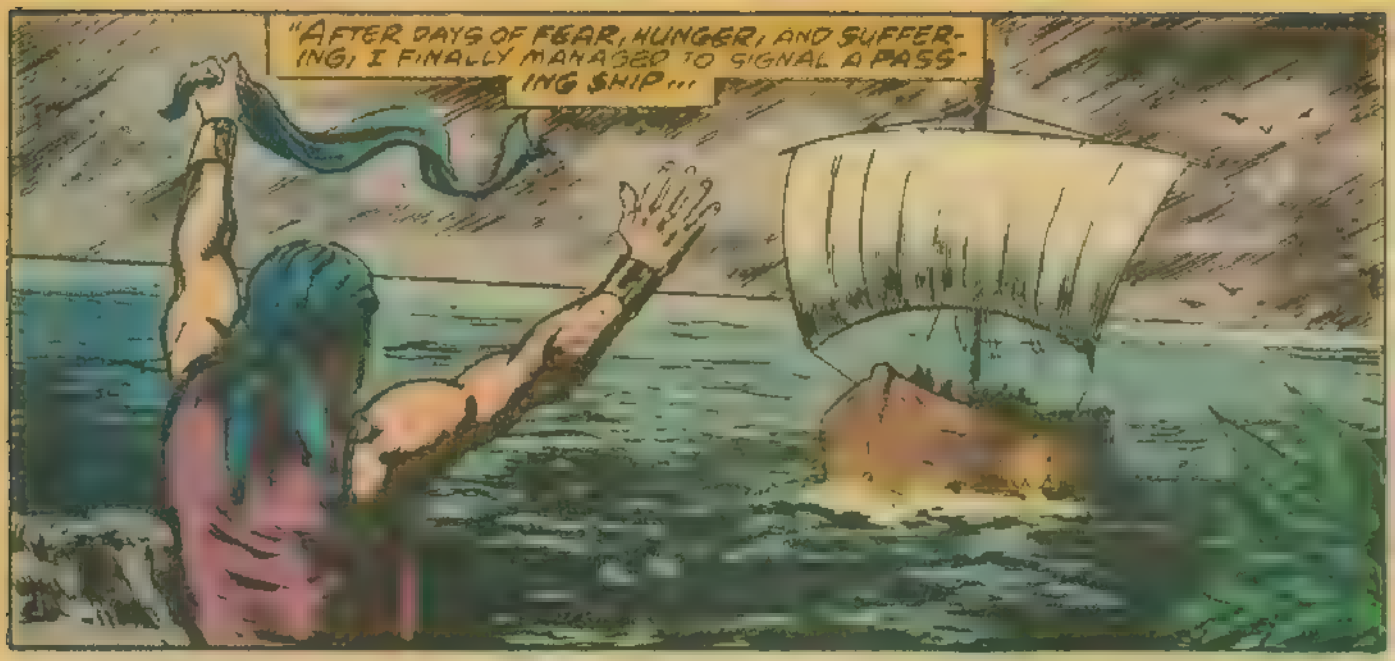
"MOREOVER, AND FAR LESS TO MY LIKING, I DISCOVERED THAT BY NIGHT THE VALLEY SWARMED WITH HIDEOUS SNAKES AND VIPERS -- BIGGER THAN TREES AND SURELY ABLE TO SWALLOW AN ELEPHANT IN ONE GULP...
BY ALLAH, I HAVE BROUGHT CERTAIN DESTRUCTION UPON MYSELF NOW!
BUT BY SOME MIRACLE I WAS ABLE TO TAKE REFUGE IN A CAVE...
MY FLESH QUIVERED AND MY HAIR STOOD ON END AS I WATCHED A GREAT SERPENT BROODING OVER HER EGGS THROUGHOUT THE TERRIBLY LONG NIGHT...
I EMERGED AT DAWN, WHEN THE SNAKES AT LAST RETREATED FROM THE LIGHT -- AND DISCOVERED A FRESH SHEEPSKIN THROWN FROM ONE OF THE MOUNTAINTOPS...
I HAVE HEARD HOW DIAMOND TRADERS CAST SUCH SHEEPSKINS INTO TREACHEROUS VALLEYS - HOPING THE PRECIOUS GEMS WILL CLING TO THE WOOL.
CONCEIVING A SCHEME, I FILLED MY POCKETS AND ALL THE FOLDS OF MY CLOTHES WITH THE CHOICEST OF DIAMONDS AND THEN...
I WILL HIDE MYSELF UNDER THE SHEEPSKIN AND TRUST ONCE AGAIN TO THE HAND OF FATE...
AS EXPECTED BY THE UNSEEN DIAMOND TRADERS, AND HOPED BY ME, AN IMMENSE EAGLE SOON SWOOPED DOWN TO SEIZE THE SHEEPSKIN, THINKING IT A MORSEL OF FOOD...
IT IS THE TRADERS' CUSTOM TO CHASE THE EAGLES AND VULTURES AWAY ONCE THEY HAVE DEPOSITED THE SHEEPSKINS ON A MOUNTAINTOP. I CAN ONLY HOPE THEY WILL ADHERE TO THAT CUSTOM...
"THEY DID -- AND PRAISE BE TO ALLAH.
ALL IN VAIN -- THERE ARE NO DIAMONDS STUCK TO THE SKIN!
BUT THERE ARE PLENTY, GOOD TRADER, IN MY POCKETS.

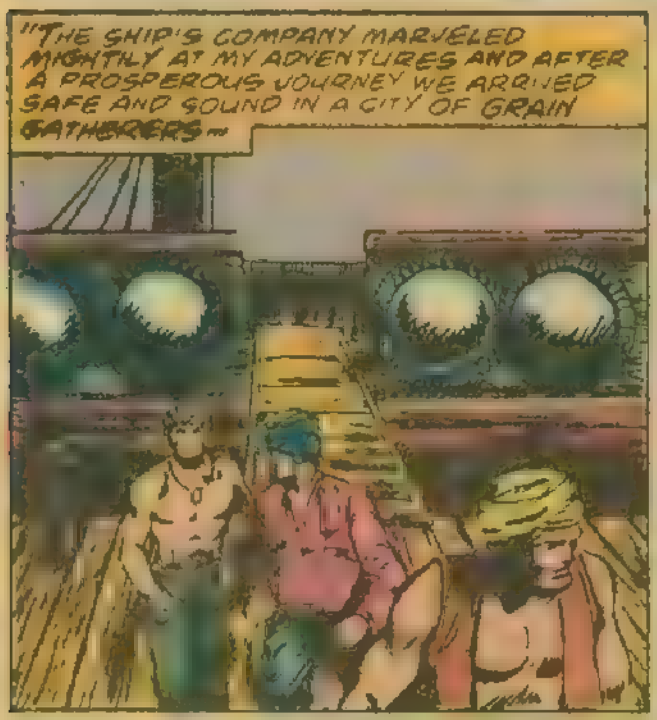
GIVING THEM GENEROUS SHARES OF THE DIAMONDS I HAD GATHERED, I SOON FOUND MYSELF IN THE COMPANY OF EAGER FRIENDS
"THEY NEEDED ME TO SAIL WITH THEM IN THEIR SHIP BACK TO BAGDAD...
"... AND SO A... WAS DELIGHT AND CONTENTMENT FOR A TIME -- UNTIL ONE DAY AMID A GREAT STORM AND A DASHING SEA...
KNOW THAT DESTINY HAS BROUGHT US TO THE SHORES OF THE HAIRY APE-FOLK -- FROM WHOSE CLUTCHES NO MAN HAS EVER COME FORTH ALIVE!
"AND SOON THE HAIRY APE MEN WERE UPON US -- THE MOST FRIGHTFUL OF WILD CREATURES I HAVE EVER SEEN -- SWARMING LIKE LOCUSTS AND NUMBERING FAR TOO MANY TO RESIST...
"WE WERE FORCED TO ABANDON THE SHIP AND ALL ITS CARGO LEST THEY SLAY US ALL...
WANDERING INLAND IN DESPAIR, WE CAME AT LAST TO AN IMMENSE CASTLE, AND ENTERED ITS COURTYARD...
"... AND THUS WERE WE STRANDED UPON THAT STRANGE AND FORBIDDING COAST.
ALAS, I FEAR THAT WE ARE ALL OF US DEAD MEN!
STRANGE THAT THERE IS NO ONE HERE. HUGE DOORS -- YET NO ONE PASSES IN OR OUT.
WELL, LET US LIE DOWN AND SLEEP FOR A WHILE...

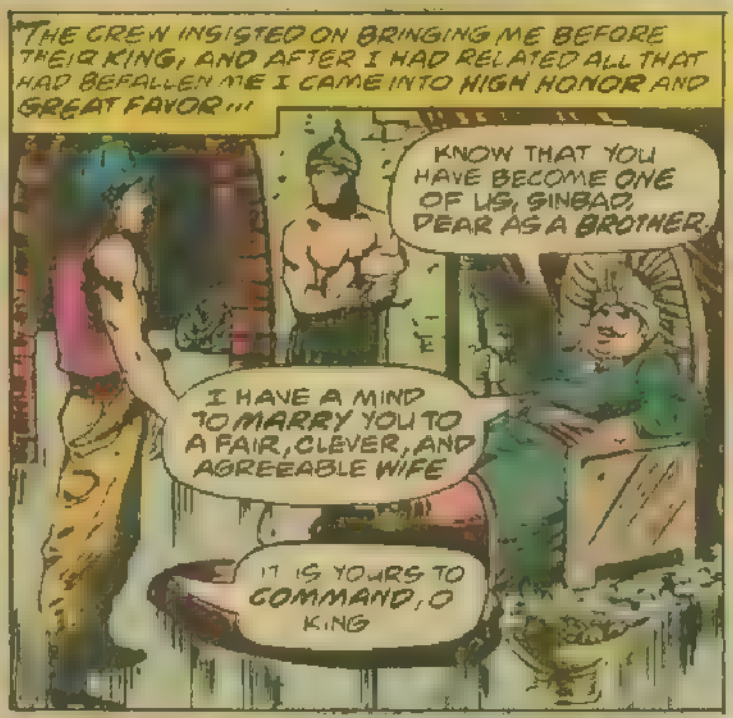

"WE AWAKENED TO FEEL THE VERY GROUND TREMBLING BENEATH US. A HUGE CREATURE LOOMED OVER US, HIS EYES LIKE FIRE, HIS TEETH LIKE THE TUSKS OF A BOAR, AND HIS CLAWS LIKE THOSE OF A LION...
"HE SWEPT ME UP IN HIS HAND AND FELT MY FLESH AS A BUTCHER FEELS THE SHEEP HE IS ABOUT TO SLAUGHTER...
BUT FINDING ME TOO LEAN, HE CAST ME ASIDE -- AND CHOSE INSTEAD THE MASTER OF THE SHIP, A STOUT AND STURDY FELLOW WITH MUCH FLESH ON HIS BONES...
"WHEN WHOSE POOR BONES WERE BARE AND THE FRIGHTFUL GIANT TOOK TO SNARKING AND SNORING, I LED MY FELLOWS OUT FROM THE COURTYARD IN GREAT STEALTH...
"TOGETHER, WE MADE A CRUDE BOAT NEAR THE SHORE...
WOULD THAT WE HAD BEEN DROWNED IN THE SEA -- OR EVEN SLAIN BY THE APE-FOLK -- RATHER THAN BEING ROASTED BY THE OGRE.
YES, WE MUST ATTEMPT TO KILL HIM LEST HE SPOIL OUR ESCAPE.

"WE CREPT BACK TO THE COURT-YARD AND, FINDING THE GIANT STILL ASLEEP--
"--WE BLINDED HIM
"THERE WAS A GREAT ROAR TO SHAKE THE VERY NIGHT...
AS HE GROPED ABOUT IN SEARCH OF US, WE RACED FOR OUR BOAT--
"--AND PADDLED AWAY IN ALL HASTE AS THE OGRE, WITH TWO COMPANIONS EVEN MORE FOUL AND FRIGHTFUL THAN HE, HURLED ROCKS AT US FROM THE SHORE
"SOME OF US FELL UNDER THAT FIERCE PELTING...
"... SO THAT ONLY THREE OF US REMAINED, FATIGUED AND FAMISHED WHEN WE WERE CAST UPON ANOTHER ISLE.
"WE DID NOT BOTHER TO REJOICE OVER OUR ESCAPE FROM THE OGRES BUT INSTEAD SWIFTLY FELL ASLEEP...

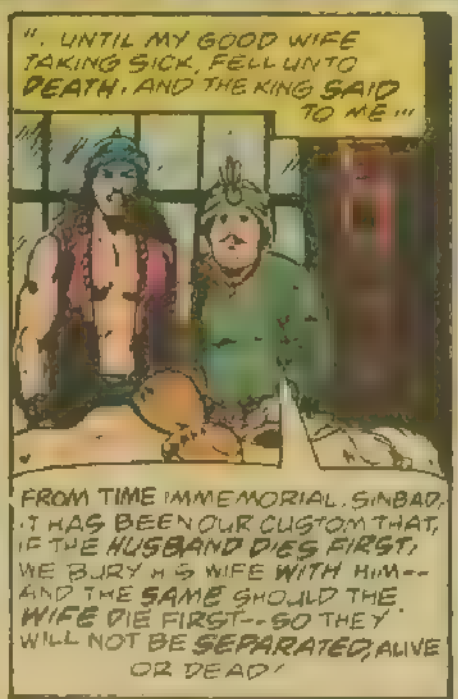
"IN THE MORNING, THERE ONLY WERE TWO OF US...
"...PLUS THE NEWLY FED DRAGON WHICH LAY COILED IN A CIRCLE AROUND US.
BY ALLAH, EACH DEPTH THAT THREATENS US IS MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE LAST. WE HAVE ESCAPED THE APE-MEN, THE OGRES, AND THE PERILS OF THE SEA—BUT HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE THIS MONSTROUS LIZARD?
"MY COMRADE DID NOT ESCAPE THE HIDEOUS DRAGON.
"BUT WHILE THE MONSTER BUSIED ITSELF WITH HIM, I SPRANG UP THE TREE NEARBY--
"--AND USED FIBERS TO BIND FIVE PALM FRONDS TO EACH OF MY LIMBS AND MY TORSO...
"...SO THAT WHEN I DROPPED TO THE GROUND OUT OF THE DRAGON'S SIGHT...
"...THE CREATURE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE ME WHEN IT FINALLY ABANDONED ITS TREETOP QUEST.


"AFTER DAYS OF FEAR, HUNGER, AND SUFFERING, I FINALLY MANAGED TO SIGNAL A PASSING SHIP..."


"THE SHIP'S COMPANY MARVELED MIGHTILY AT MY ADVENTURES AND AFTER A PROSPEROUS JOURNEY WE ARRIVED SAFE AND SOUND IN A CITY OF GRAIN GATHERERS..."


"THE CREW INSISTED ON BRINGING ME BEFORE THEIR KING, AND AFTER I HAD RELATED ALL THAT HAD BEFALLEN ME I CAME INTO HIGH HONOR AND GREAT FAVOR..."
KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BECOME ONE OF US, SINBAD, DEAR AS A BROTHER
I HAVE A MIND TO MARRY YOU TO A FAIR, CLEVER, AND AGREEABLE WIFE
IT IS YOURS TO COMMAND, O KING

"AND SO WAS I WED TO A NOBLE LADY OF SURPASSING BEAUTY AND GRACE..."
I GIVE YOU THIS HOUSE TOGETHER WITH SERVANTS, AND ASSIGN YOU PAY AND ALLOWANCES
"NO MAN COULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER THAN WAS I..."


"...UNTIL MY GOOD WIFE TAKING SICK, FELL UNTO DEATH, AND THE KING SAID TO ME..."
FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, SINBAD, IT HAS BEEN OUR CUSTOM THAT, IF THE HUSBAND DIES FIRST, WE BURY HIS WIFE WITH HIM--AND THE SAME SHOULD THE WIFE DIE FIRST--SO THEY WILL NOT BE SEPARATED, ALIVE OR DEAD!

"THEY ARRAYED MY LADY IN RICH RAIMENT AND GOLDEN ORNAMENTS, AND CARRIED HER TO A GREAT MOUNTAIN..."
HERE, INTO THIS VAST UNDERGROUND CAVERN, MUST WE CAST YOUR WIFE AND YOU, DEAR FRIEND SINBAD, MUST FOLLOW.

"THEN WAS I LOWERED INTO THAT DREAD DARK HOLD OF THE DEAD..."
NOW WE MUST CLOSE THE MOUTH OF THE PIT. FARE-WELL, SINBAD.

"THERE SEEMED TO BE NO ESCAPE FROM THE CAVERN, AND WELL I KNEW IT..."
FAR BETTER HAD I DIED SWIFTLY FROM ONE OF MY MANY PAST PERILS... THAN TO PERISH IN THIS MISER-ABLE MANNER.

"THEN, WHEN I HAD LONG SINCE GIVEN UP HOPE, I HEARD THE SCRATCHING OR BURROWING OF SOME ANIMAL -- AND FOL-LOWED THE SOUNDS THROUGH A LONG TUNNEL, AT THE END OF WHICH THERE WAS A POINT OF LIGHT NO BIGGER THAN A A STAR..."

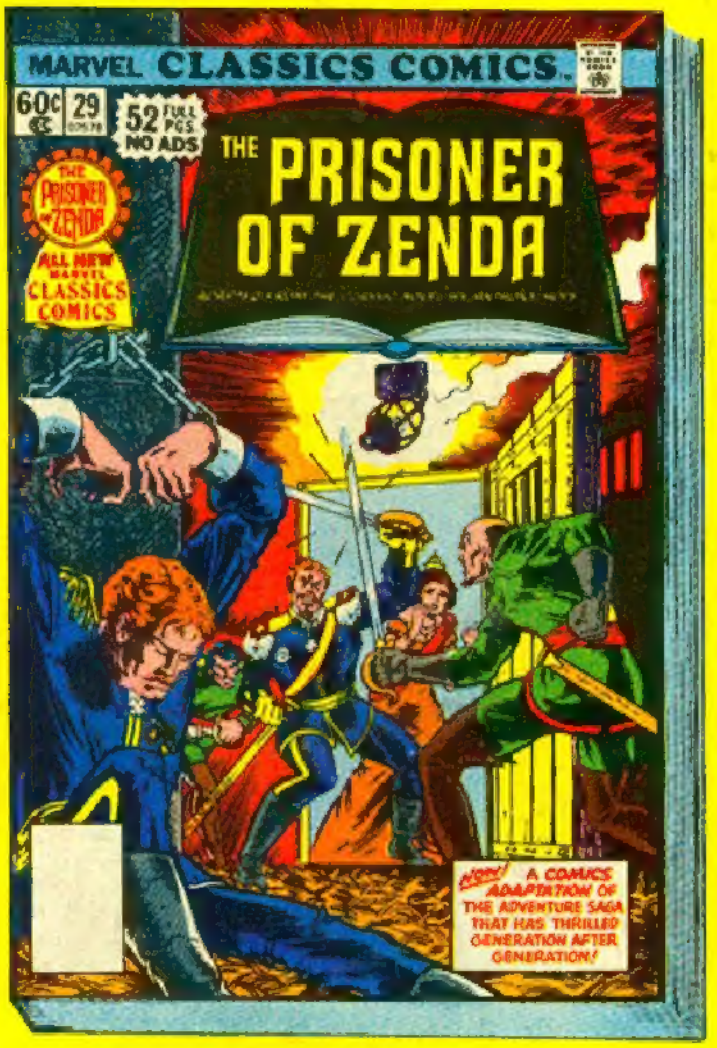
"IT WAS A CREVICE IN THE ROCK OF THE MOUNTAIN, LEADING TO FREEDOM AND DELIVERANCE...
"I WEPT WITH JOY, AND DETER-MINED TO RETURN TO MY HOUSE HERE IN BAGDAD, FOR I HAD SATIATED MYSELF WITH DANGER AND ADVENTURE."

THUS DID I VOW TO VENTURE NO MORE BY LAND OR SEA, FOR EVEN THOSE TRAVELS WHICH HAD BROUGHT ME RICHES OR JOY SEEMED DES-TINED TO END IN TRAGEDY.
AND REMEMBER WELL THESE EX-PERIENCES I HAVE RELATED TO YOU...
...BEFORE NEXT YOU ENVY THE LOT OF MY LIFE.
SO ENDS THIS TALE, O KING SHAHRYAR, OF THE MANY VOYAGES OF SINBAD...

AND SO, FROM THESE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, GREW THE FABLED THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS OF SCHEHEREZADE!!! EACH ONE A SILKEN TAPESTRY OF BREATHLESS WONDER AND ENCHANTMENT...
AND DURING THIS TIME OF MATCHLESS ENTERTAINMENT, SCHEHEREZADE BORE KING SHAHRYAR THREE SONS...
YOU SAY YOU HAVE A REQUEST, SCHEHEREZADE?
YES, O KING AND HUSBAND, FOR THESE ARE YOUR CHILDREN AND I ASK TO BE RELEASED FROM THE DOOM OF DEATH-- LEST THESE INFANTS BECOME MOTHERLESS.
BY ALLAH, SCHEHEREZADE --I PARDONED YOU AFTER THE FOURTH NIGHT, LONG BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THESE CHILDREN. AND AS ALLAH IS MY WITNESS, NO HARM SHALL EVER BEFALL YOU.
KING SHAHRYAR THEN SUMMONED THE LORDS AND LADIES OF THE LAND TO A SUMPTUOUS BANQUET, AT WHICH HE HONORED WITH SPECIAL FAVOR HIS CHIEF VIZIER, THE FATHER OF SCHEHEREZADE...
ALLAH PROTECT YOU, VIZIER, FOR YOU GAVE ME YOUR NOBLE DAUGHTER, WHO HAS CAUSED ME TO REPENT THE SLAYING OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE LAND.
IN DUE TIME, KING SHAHRYAR SUMMONED CHRONICLERS AND BADE THEM TO WRITE DOWN ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM AND HIS WIFE.
THE WORK CAME TO THIRTY VOLUMES AND WAS CALLED "THE STORIES OF THE THOUSAND NIGHTS AND ONE."
SCHEHEREZADE SMILED A VERY SECRET SMILE... AND IN HER EYES THERE TWINKLED THE WONDERS OF THE AGES.

ON SALE NOW!

MORE THRILLING ILLUSTRATED ADAPTATIONS IN THE MARVEL CLASSICS SERIES!


MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS
60¢ 29
52 FULL PGS NO ADS
THE PRISONER OF ZENDA
THE PRISONER OF ZENDA
ALL NEW MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS
A COMICS ADAPTATION OF THE ADVENTURE SAGA THAT HAS THRILLED GENERATION AFTER GENERATION!

AND COMING IN OCTOBER

H.G. WELLS' THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON AND JACK LONDON'S WHITE FANG